



A fanfare. A chorus. The awakening of Akira has begun.

Tetsuo, juvenile delinquent turned power mad mutant, jealously rouses the psychic child. The race for control of Akira rushes on, sparked by warring factions who all vie for possession of the force that may doom Neo-Tokyo.

In the future, the end has begun. Hail the dawn of a new era for mankind; perhaps its last.



AKIRA



AKIRA

12



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KATSUHIRO OTOMO

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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

CHAPTER 12

ENTER SAKAKI

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



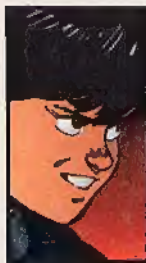
The year is 2030. The world is rebuilding from World War III. In **Neo-Tokyo**, plans are being made to hold the next Olympics in the "old city" where thirty-eight years before, the first of the bombs fell. In the old city, a band of teenaged delinquents led by **Kaneda** encounter **Number 26**—a

terrified child possessing extraordinary telekinetic abilities. During the encounter, the paranormal boy gravely injures **Tetsuo**, one of Kaneda's close friends, then mysteriously vanishes.

As a result, **Kaneda** and **Tetsuo** become entangled in a power struggle between a mysterious military and scientific organization led by a man known only as the **Colonel**, and an underground resistance group, bent on putting a stop to the Colonel's activities.

Among the resistance, **Kaneda** meets **Kay**—a girl he alternately maddens and tries to seduce—Kay's "brother", **Ryu**, and Ryu's closest subordinate, a man who proves his value to the group when he detects and very nearly kills a spy from the Colonel's organization. Ryu's superiors in the resistance include **Nezu**—who publicly leads the political party that opposes the government—and a powerful religious leader with strong precognitive gifts, **Lady Miyako**.

The **Colonel** already has a number of children under his control, each one possessing a distinct set of psychic talents and identified by a number marked on the hand. (**Lady Miyako**



Kaneda



Kay



Takashi



Ryu

was, at one time, Number 19 in the series.) One of the children the **Colonel** "controls" is the mental giant **Akira**. Because of his immense psychic abilities, he has been suspended in cryogenic sleep beneath the half-finished Olympic Stadium for almost four decades.

The Colonel's chief medical advisor, called **Doctor**, subjects **Tetsuo** to painful electronic and chemical experiments, awakening tremendous telepathic potential in the boy, who is dubbed **Number 41**. Unfortunately, as his powers grow, a monstrous side of Tetsuo's nature also appears. Able to shrug off the most serious injuries, **Tetsuo** goes on a killing spree, eventually murdering one of Kaneda's closest friends and attacking **Kaneda**, who, along with **Kay**, is subsequently captured by the **Colonel** and taken to his installation.

Tetsuo learns of Akira's existence and is unable to tolerate the idea that **Akira** may be more powerful than he is, so he forces the **Doctor** to tell him where his rival lies. Determined to seek him out, **Tetsuo** brutally attacks the **Colonel**, who tries to restrain him. The psychic children, who, like **Lady**

Miyako, fear Akira's power and are worried about the disaster **Tetsuo** may unleash, use their talents to help **Kaneda** and **Kay** escape from their cells. Armed with a laser, **Kaneda** routs **Tetsuo**, who flees the installation and sets out for the Olympic site where **Akira** sleeps. Before the **Colonel** recovers, **Kaneda** and **Kay** are also able to escape "aided" by the same spy Ryu's lieutenant previously left for dead. Although they don't trust the man, **Kaneda** and **Kay** bring him along as they, too, head for the Olympic site. **Ryu** and his lieutenant are working undercover at the Olympic Stadium, posing as soldiers.

Hoping to prevent a disaster, the Colonel alerts his troops and scientists. When everyone finally reaches the site, fighting breaks out.

Tetsuo easily repels wave after wave of soldiers armed with the most sophisticated weaponry. The scientists monitoring Akira's cryogenic induced sleep are appalled to discover that the temperature in Akira's chamber is beginning to rise, and they deduce that even in hibernation, Akira's power is responding to Tetsuo's psychic energy.



Tetsuo



Kiyoko



The Colonel



Lady Miyako

Kaneda, Kay and the spy steal one of the army's flying platforms but are unable to control it. The result is while trying to reach **Akira's** chamber, the unlikely trio fly by an elevator platform carrying **Tetsuo, Ryu** and his lieutenant. The runaway platform, also, rockets by the **Colonel**, and dozens of hostile troops. The trio barely manages to leap off the platform before it crashes. Now grounded, **Kay** forces the spy to go his own way. **Kay** and **Kaneda** stumble across a map to Number 28's chamber—**Akira's** chamber. From hiding they watch dumbfounded as **Tetsuo** strides past them right for the chamber. Meanwhile, the spy corners **Ryu's** lieutenant on an elevator platform and they begin a fight to the death.

Intense cold from the growing cracks in **Akira's** chamber begins to spill throughout the site. The **Colonel** orders his troops to fall back, and take cover. While, the scientists are frantic they know it could only mean that **Akira** is close to consciousness. Just as **Tetsuo** reaches **Akira's** resting place, the cryogenic chamber cracks from within—**Akira** emerges.

The paranormal giant is still dazed and weak with the aftereffects of his sleep, unable

to speak, shy of bright lights; **Akira** is easily ordered about. **Tetsuo** and he begin to make their way to the surface. Realizing that it is move or perish **Kay** and **Kaneda** also manage to find a way to the surface.

Less fortunate are **Ryu's** friend and the spy, the **Doctor**, and a number of soldiers, all killed by the deadly cold. **Ryu**, ironically, is saved by other soldiers who still believe he is one of them.

Terror sweeps the control room, as the **Colonel** tries desperately to prevent panicking, but it is too late, a scientist triggers the Code 7 Emergency Alarm. Throughout Neo-Tokyo the civilian defense claxon sound. Citizens pour into the fallout shelters, lawlessness reigns on the streets, as Neo-Tokyo holds its collective breath waiting for the bombs to fall again. Horrified of what has been unleashed and determined to act before a greater catastrophe occurs, the **Colonel** summons the powerful **SOL** military satellite. He orders that its laser cannon be fired at **Tetsuo** and **Akira**. The two boys are separated by the blasts. **Akira** is saved by **Kay** and **Kaneda**, but **Tetsuo** is less fortunate. The laser strikes his left arm.



Akira



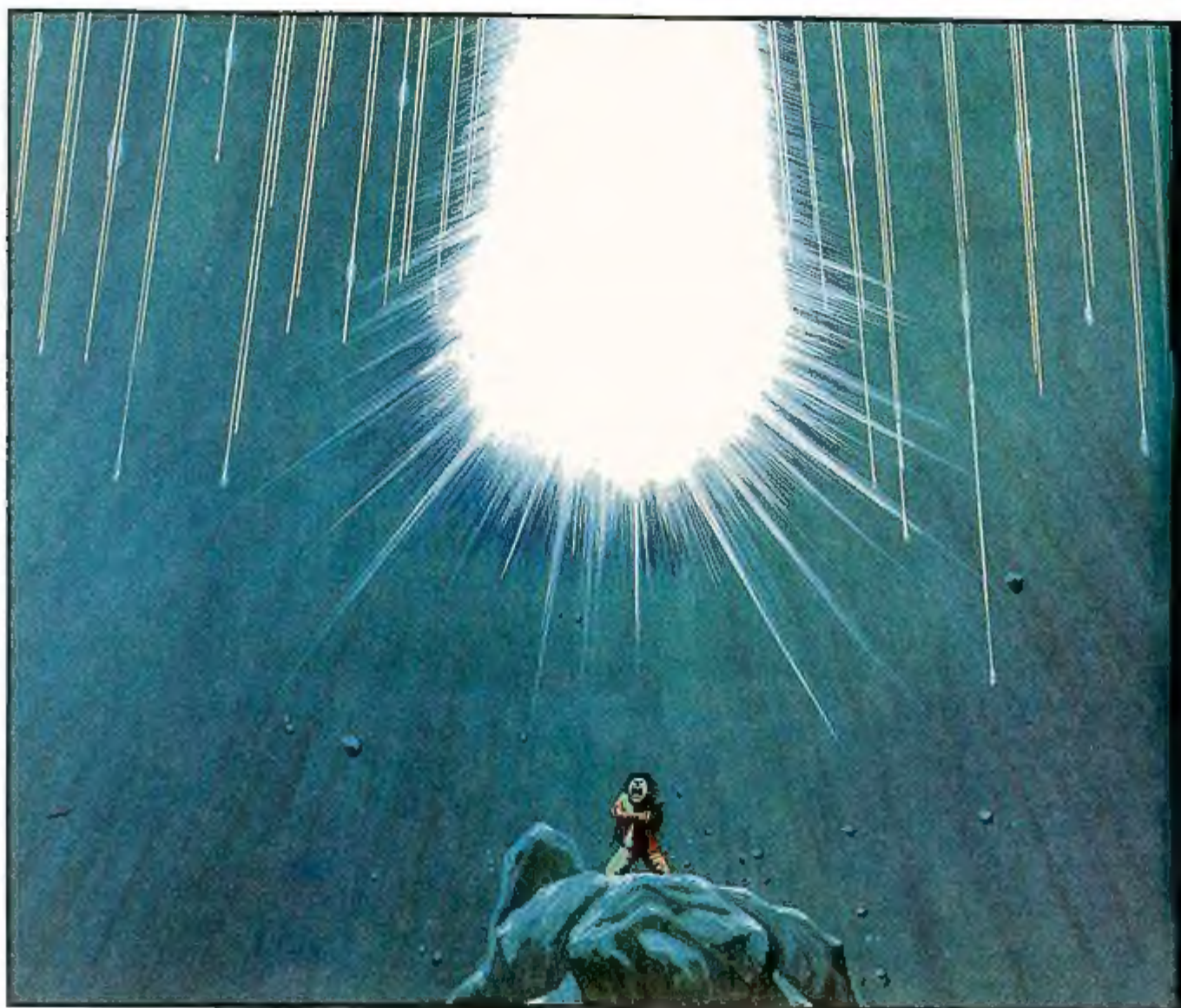
Sakaki



Nezu



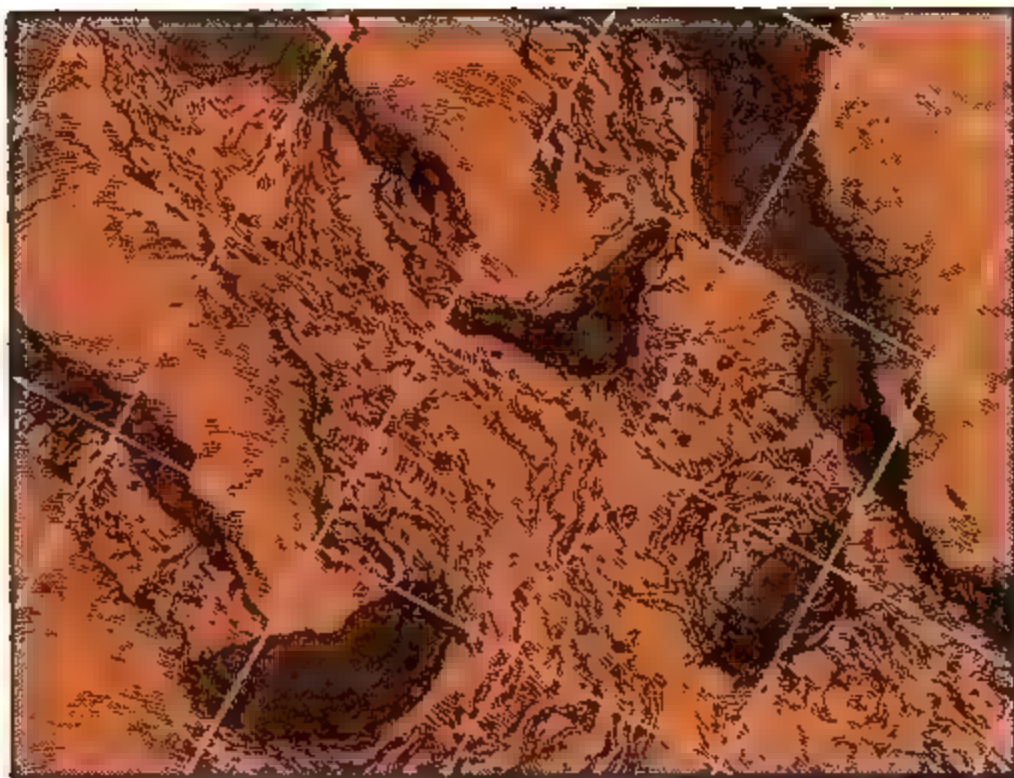
Chiyoko



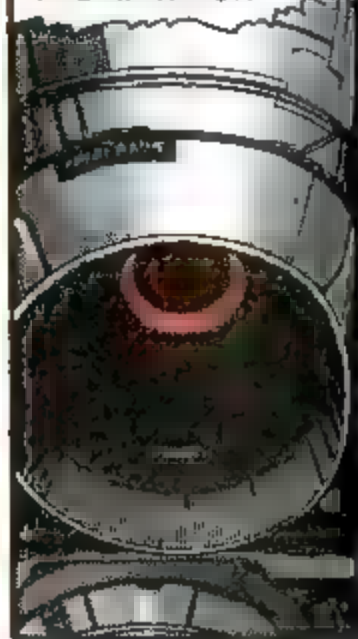








FOCUS ON THE AREA
BETWEEN COORDINATE
N-35 AND E-75 AND
INCREASE
MAGNIFICATION

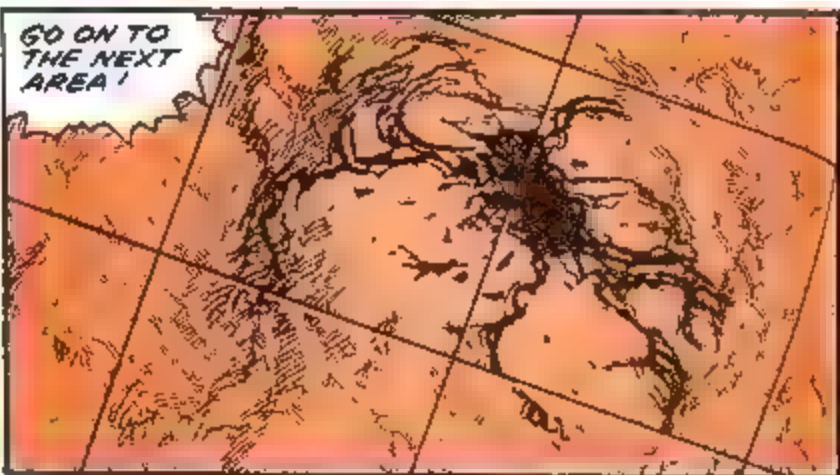


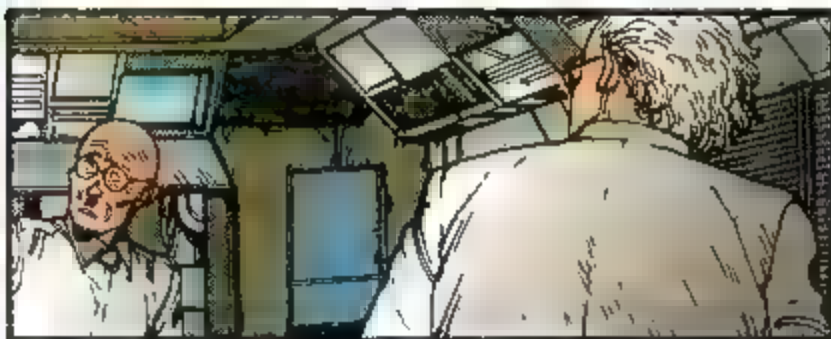
**BEGIN
SCANNING!**

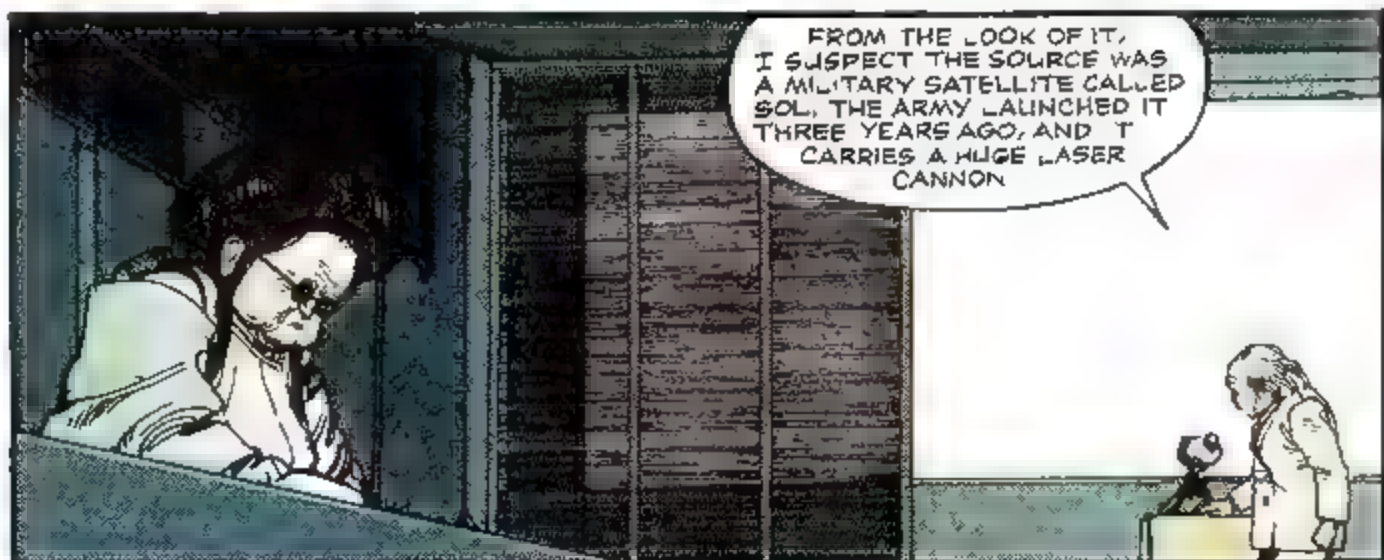
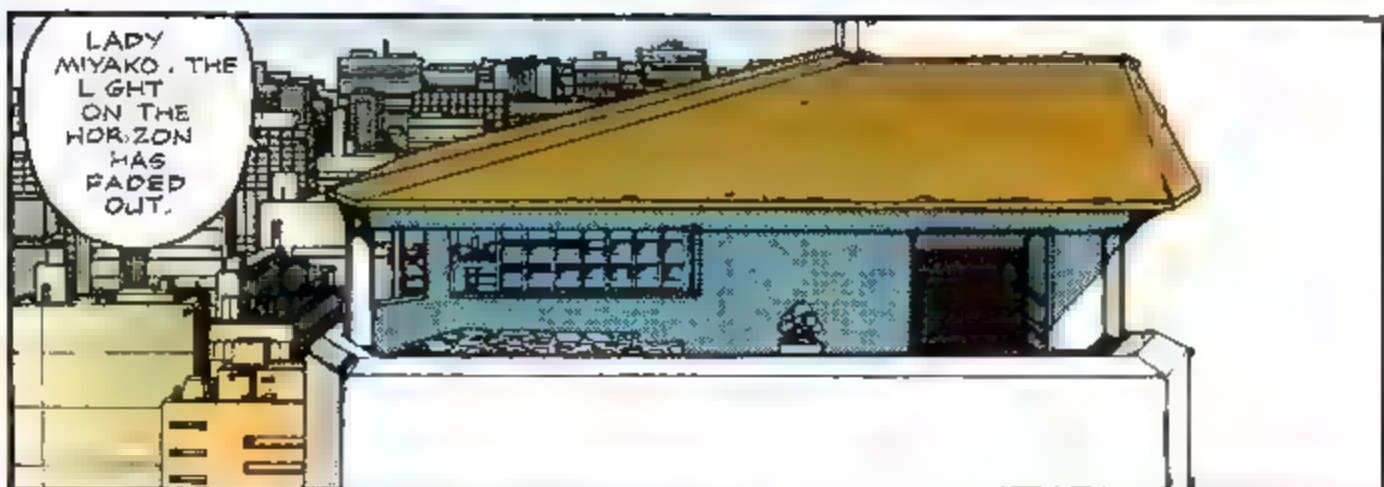
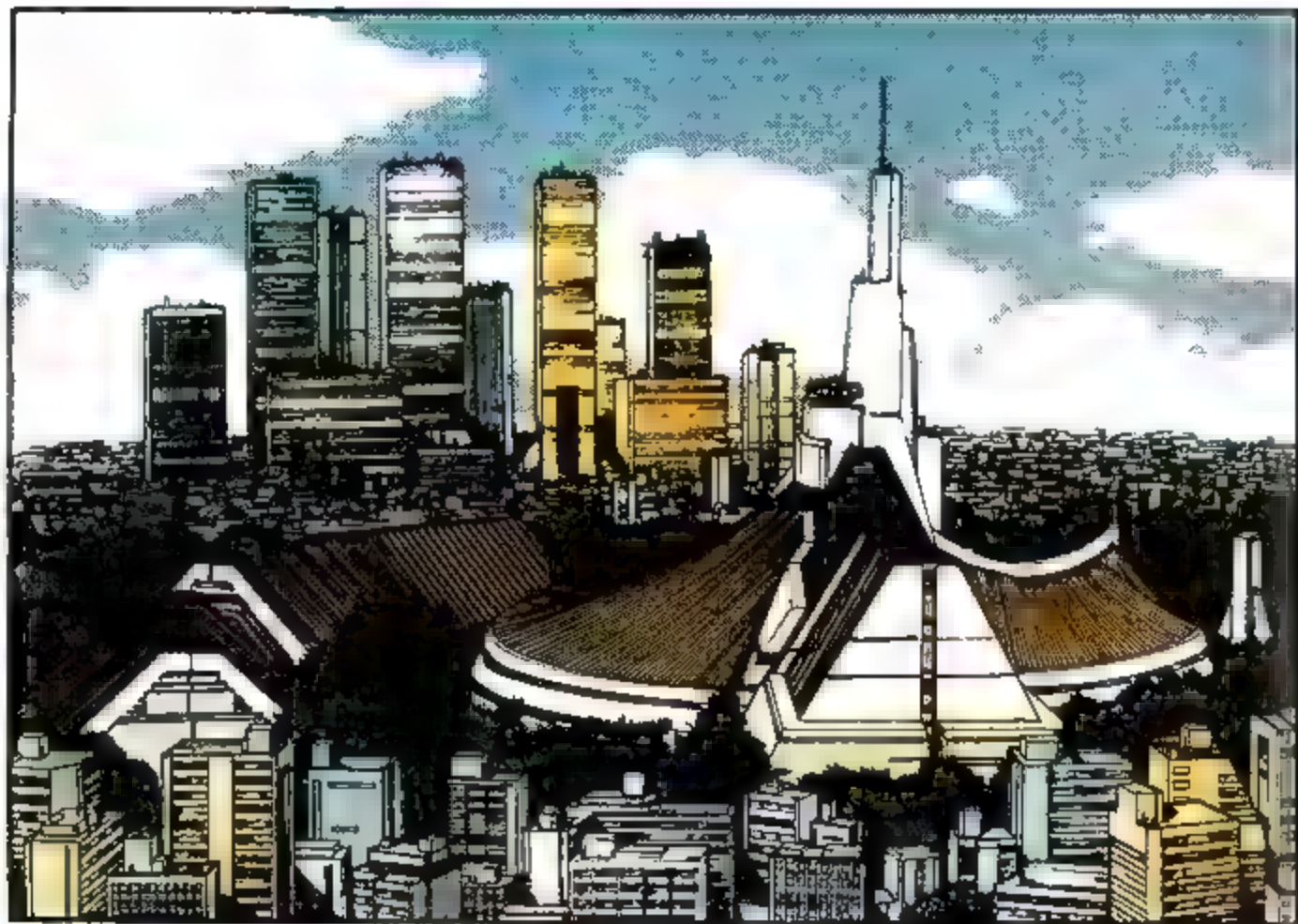
THE DISCREPANCY
BETWEEN THE
DIRECTION OF THE
SCANNER AND ITS
ORBIT IS CREATING
A GAP IN THE
READINGS.

**CHECK THE
VARIATION!**

**GO ON TO
THE NEXT
AREA!**









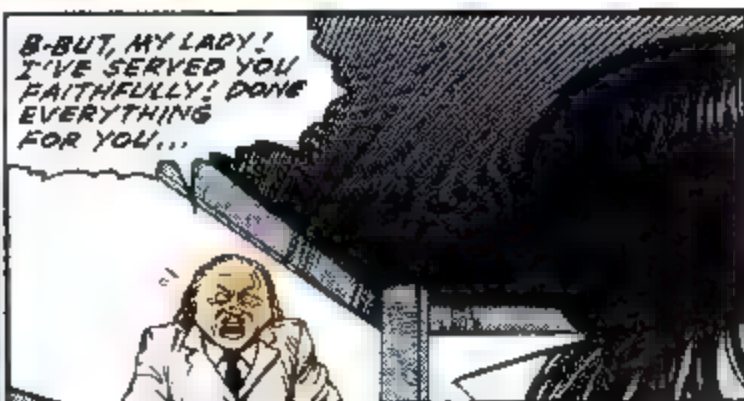
YES, MA'AM.



I HAVE
NEED
OF
YOUR
SERVICE



YES,
MA'AM



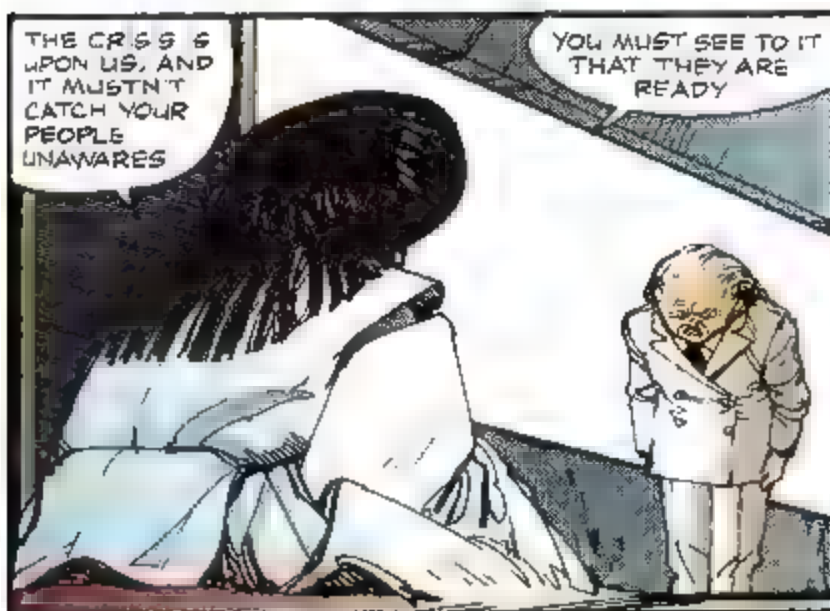
B-BUT, MY LADY!
I'VE SERVED YOU
FAITHFULLY! DONE
EVERYTHING
FOR YOU...



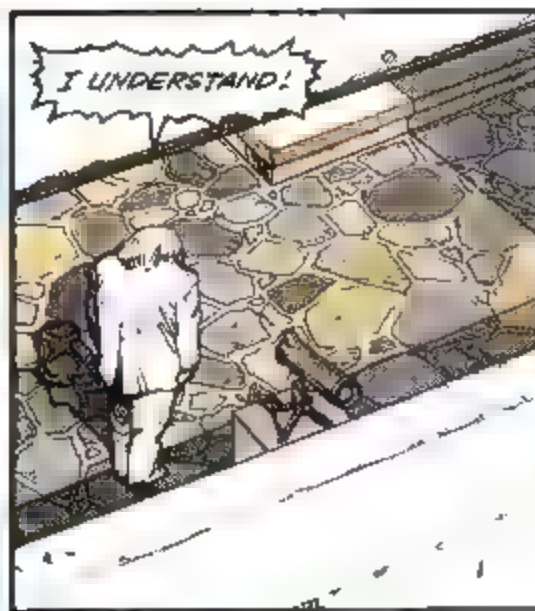
THINGS
HAVE
GROWN
BEYOND
YOUR
ABILITY
TO
HANDLE
THEM
ALONE



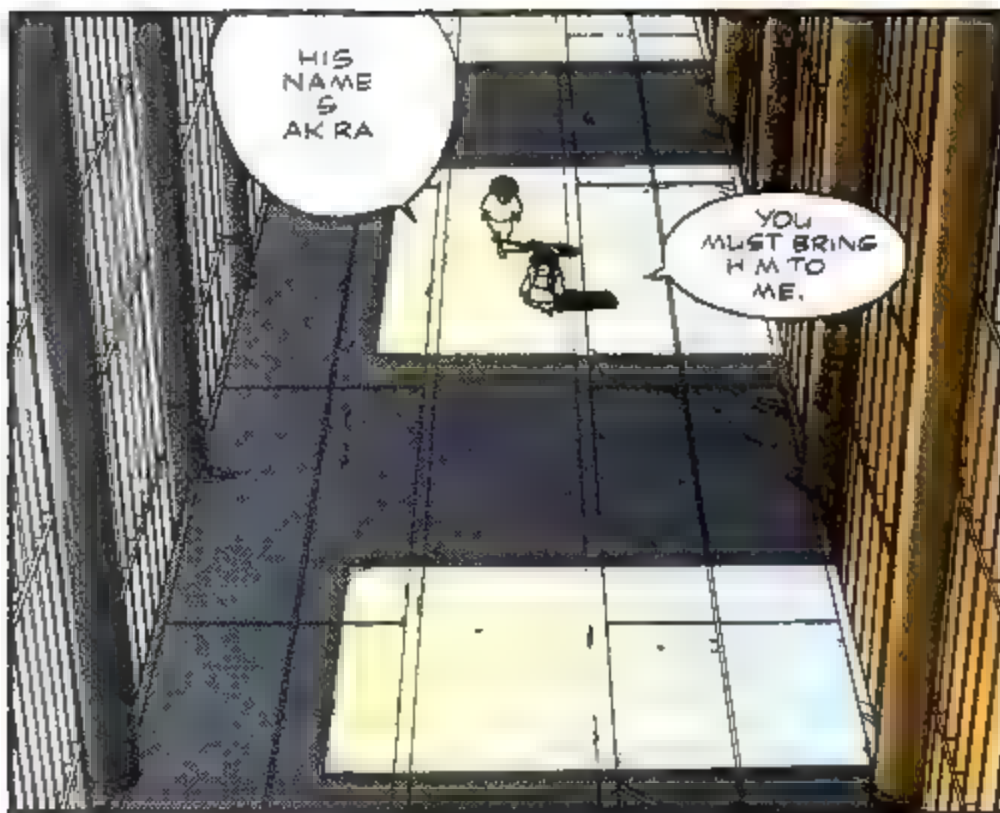
YOU SEE NEZU...
LITTLE MOUSE...



YOU MUST SEE TO IT
THAT THEY ARE
READY



I UNDERSTAND!



HIS
NAME
S
AK RA

YOU
MUST BRING
HIM TO
ME.



THE LITTLE
MOUSE CAN
SUPPLY
WHATEVER
INFORMAT ON
YOU
NEED.

YES
MA AM



SAKAKI..



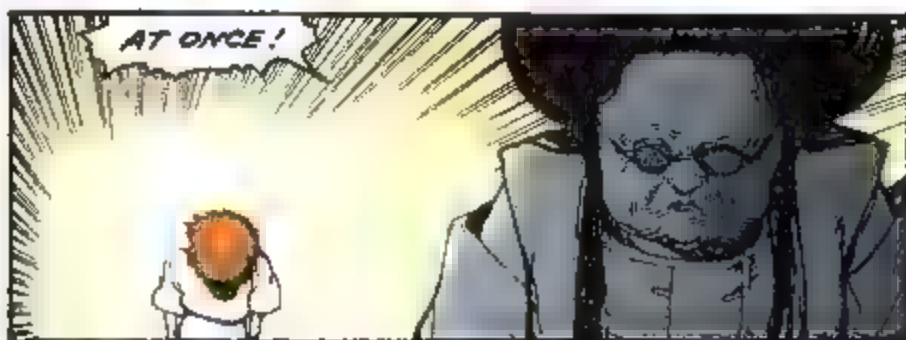
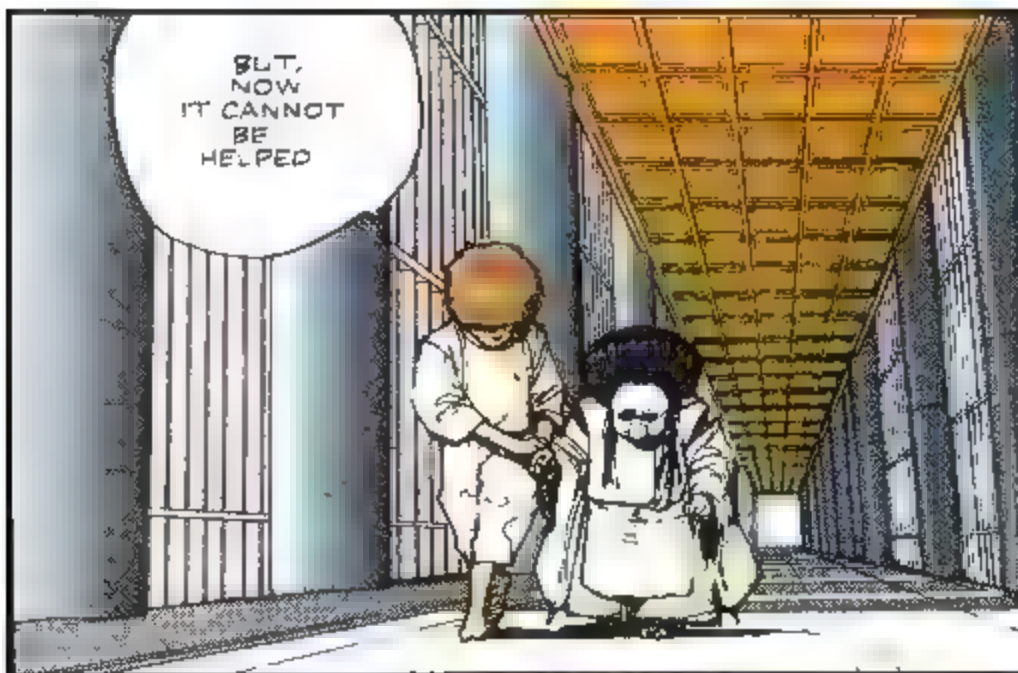
YES...?

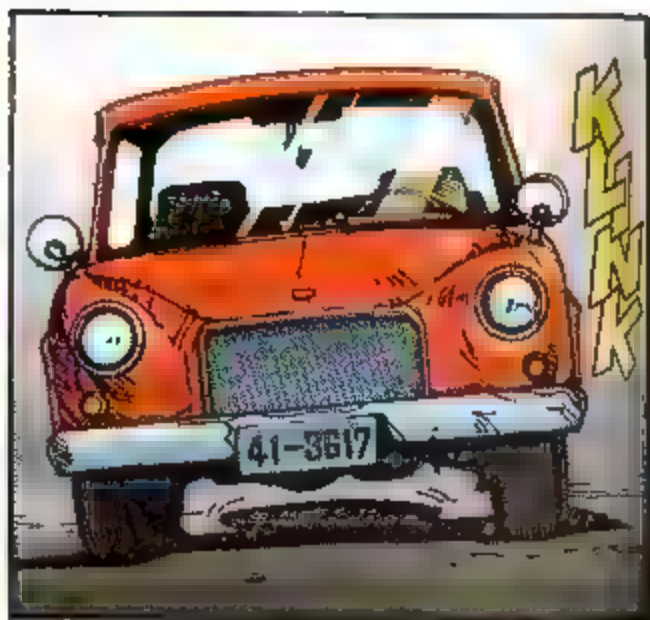


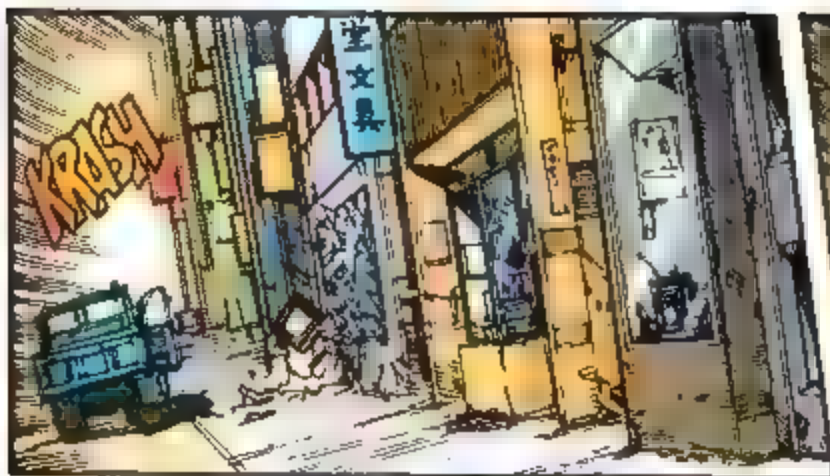
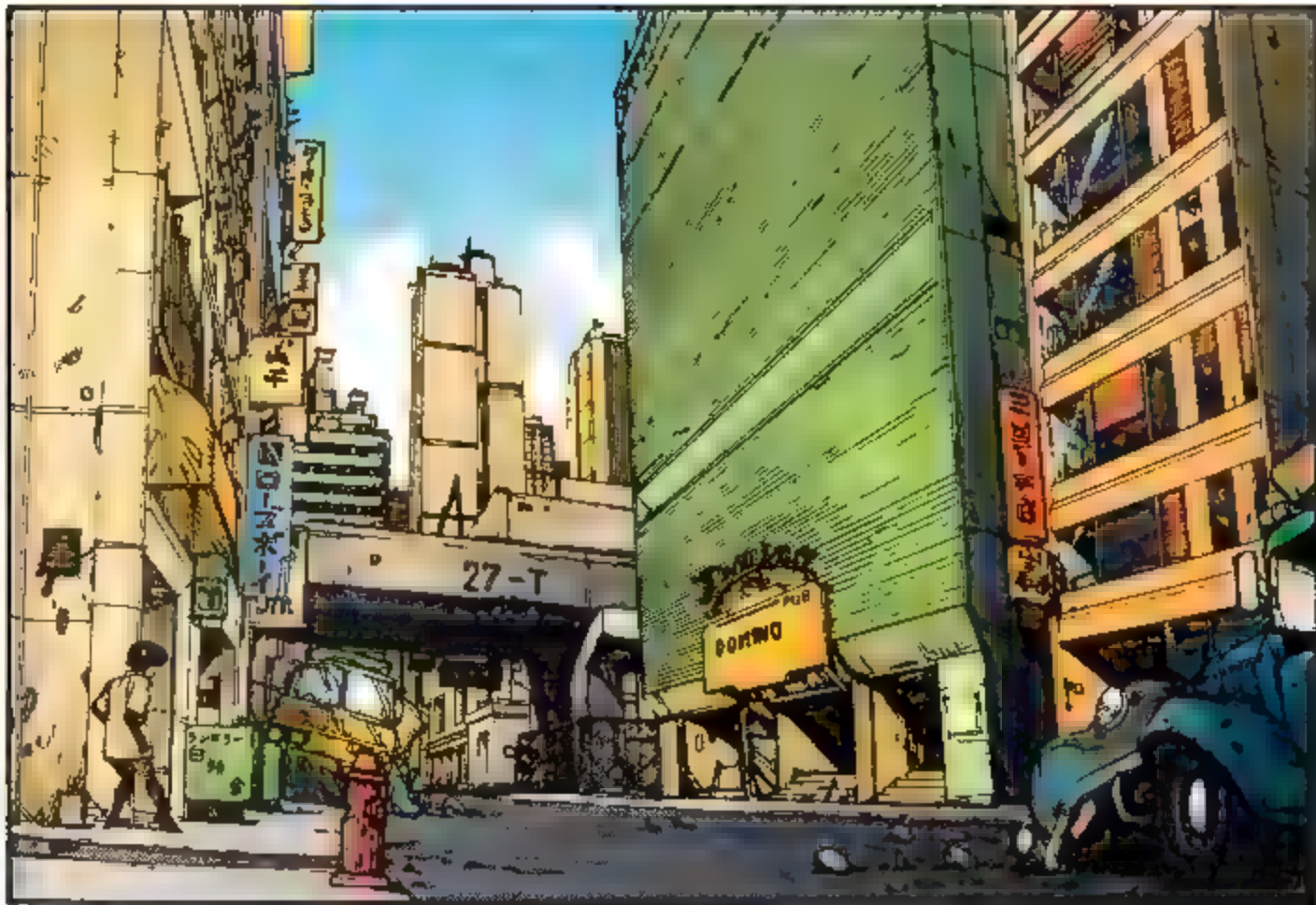
I'M SORRY .

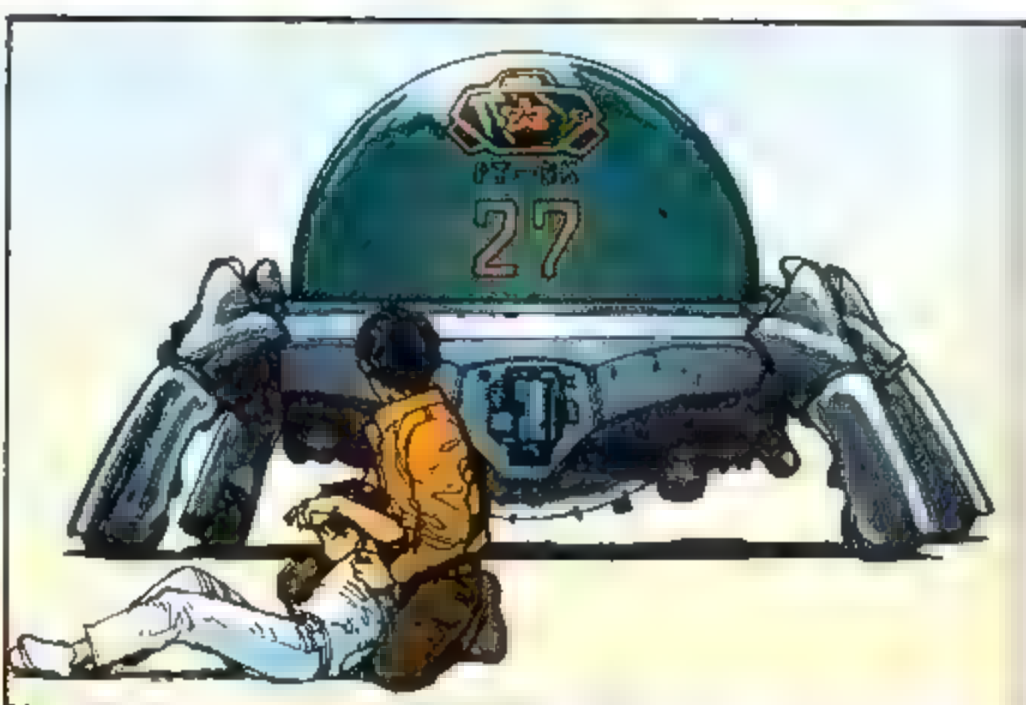
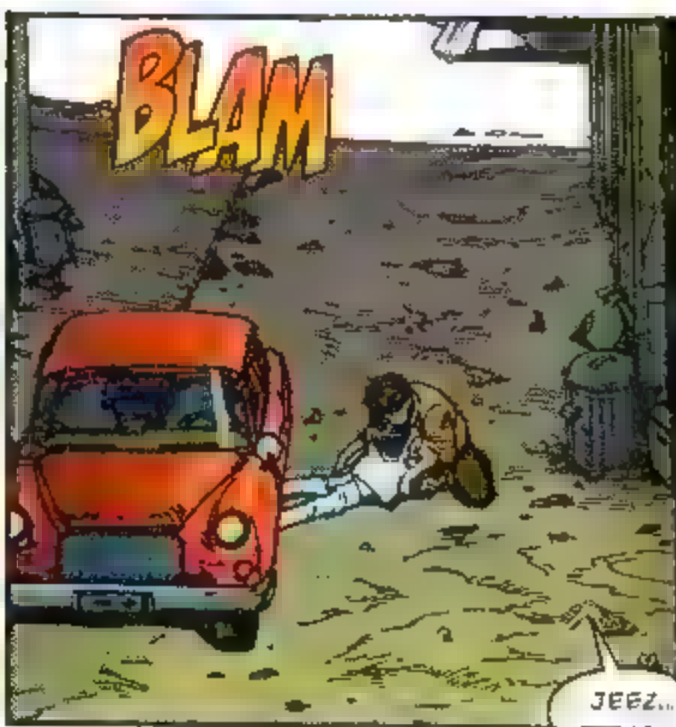
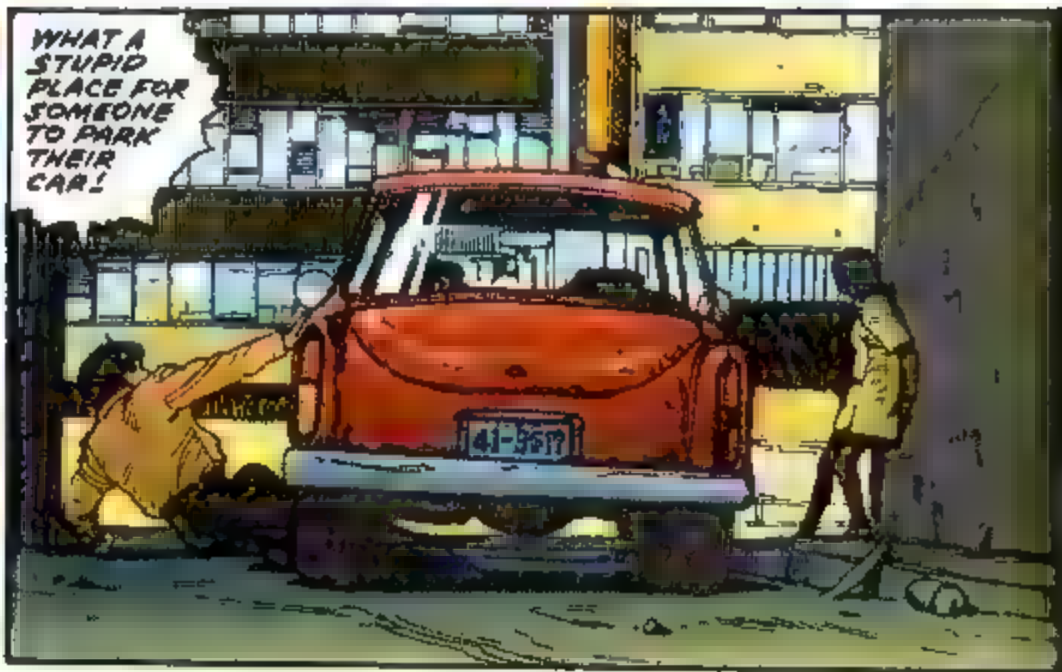


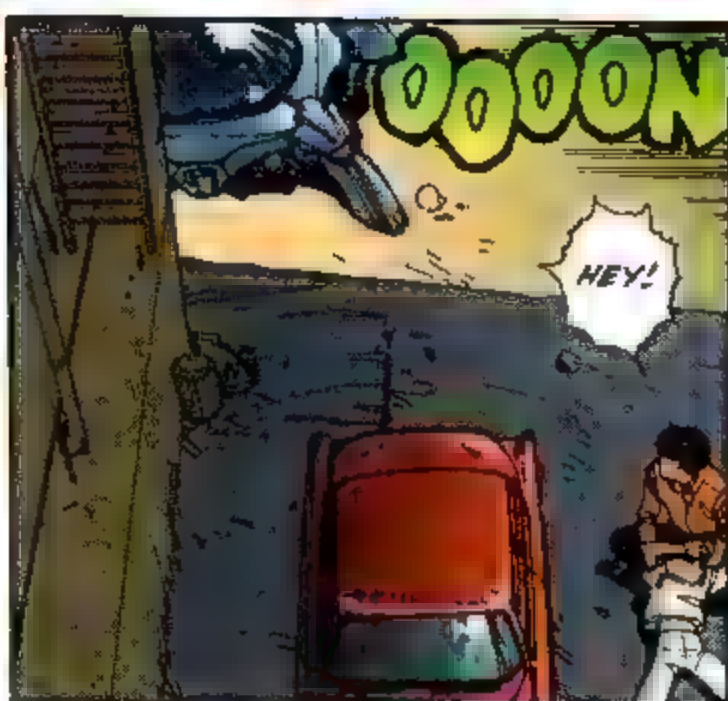
.. THAT WE NEVER
FOUND THE TIME FOR
YOUR FEMININE
TRAIN NG

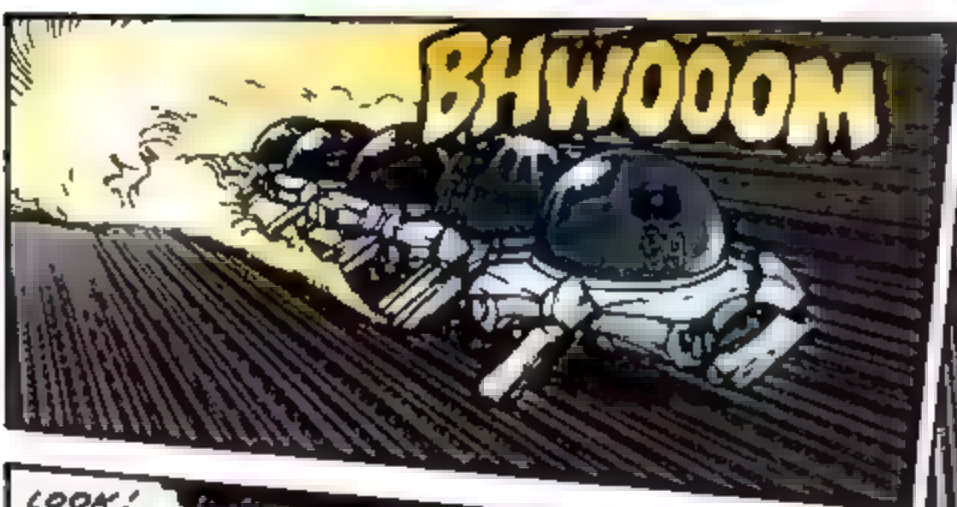
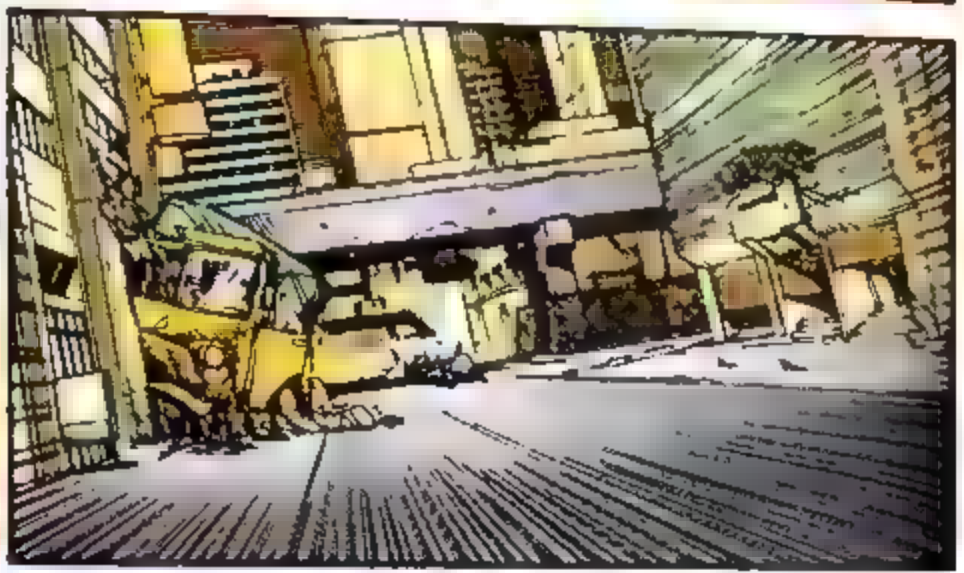
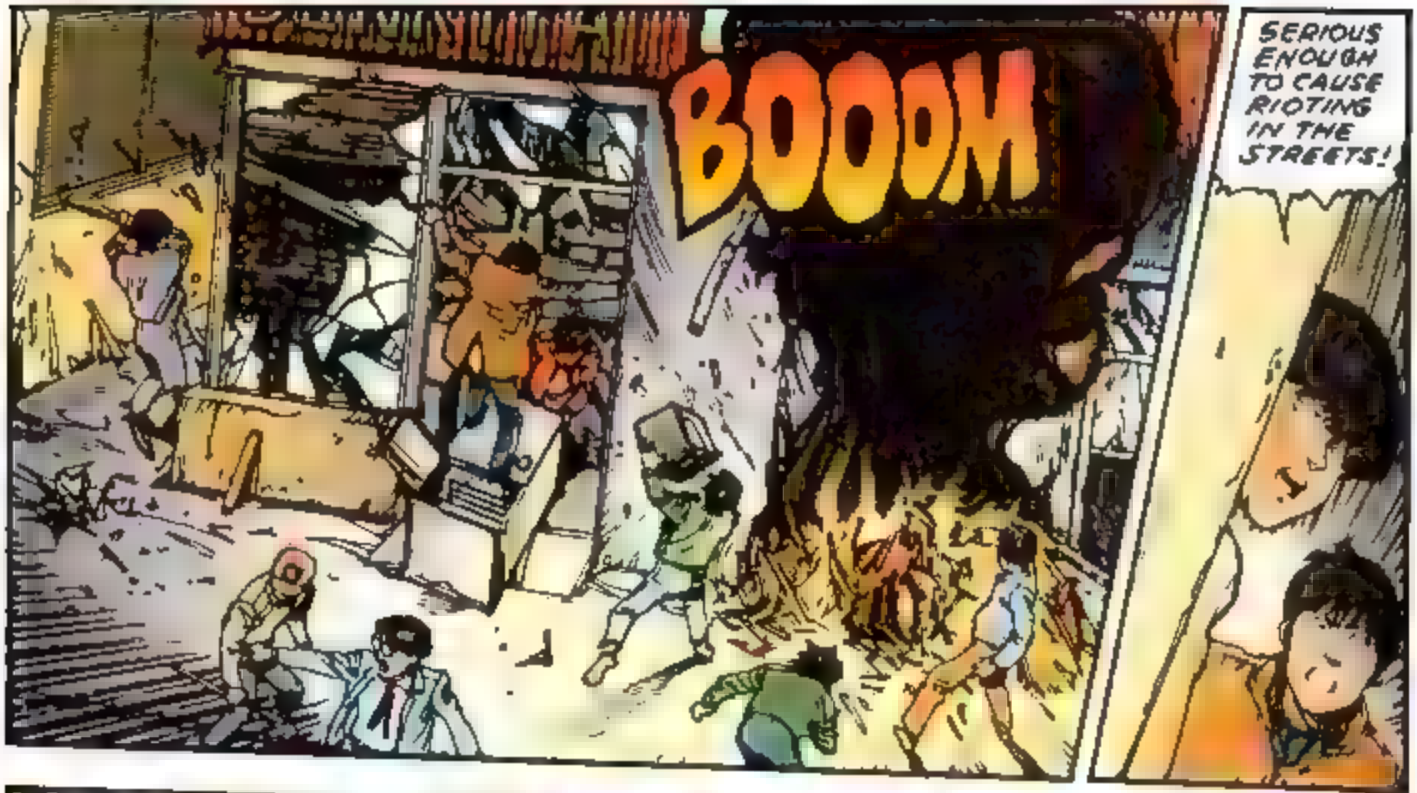


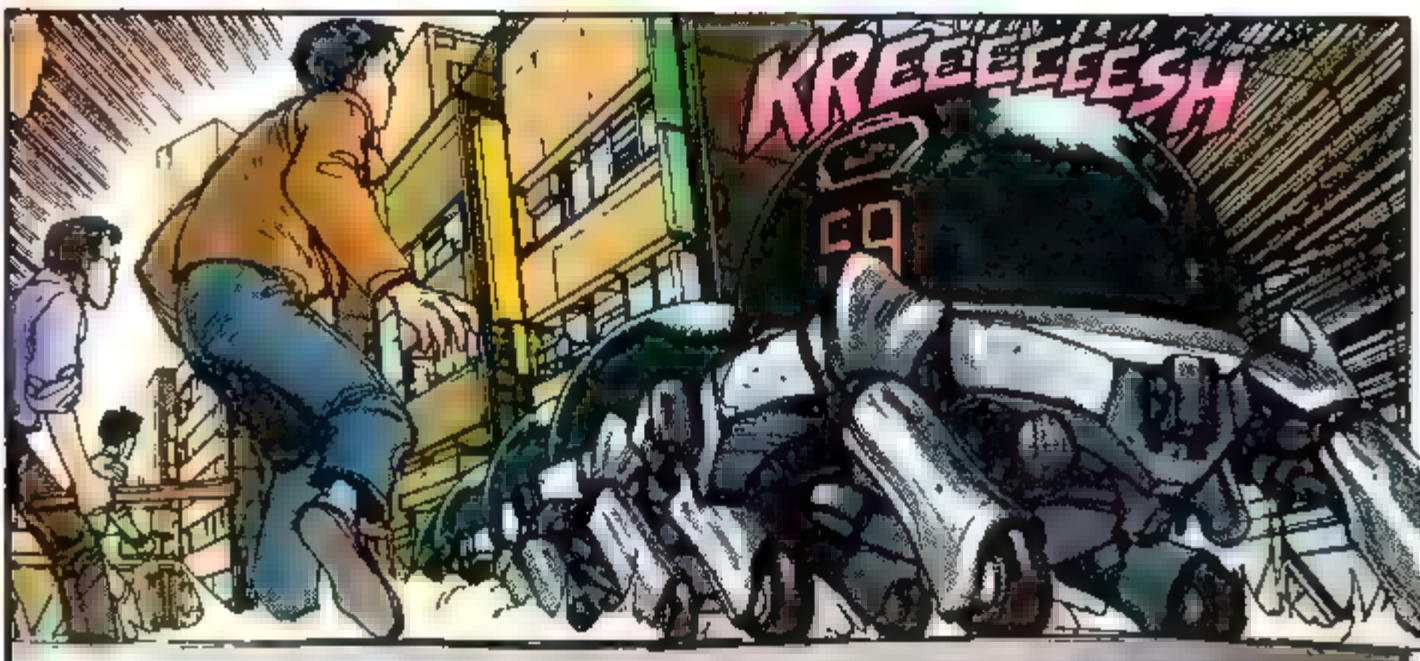


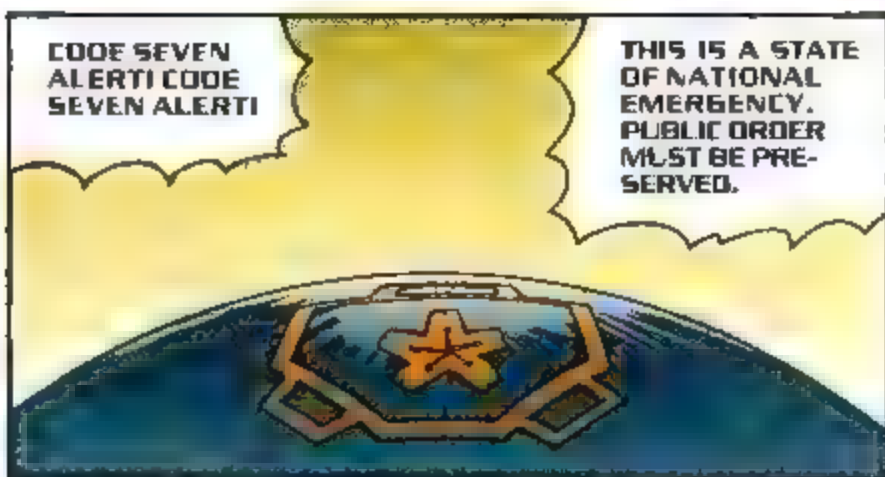
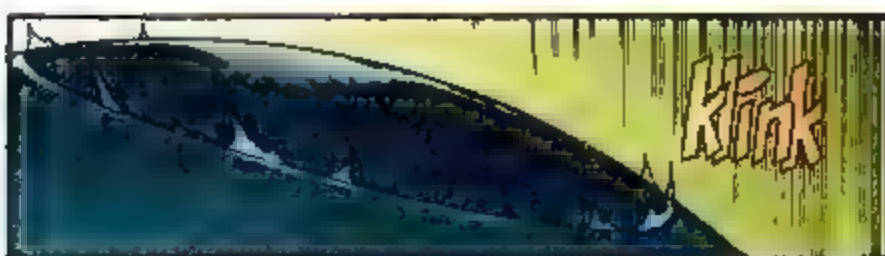
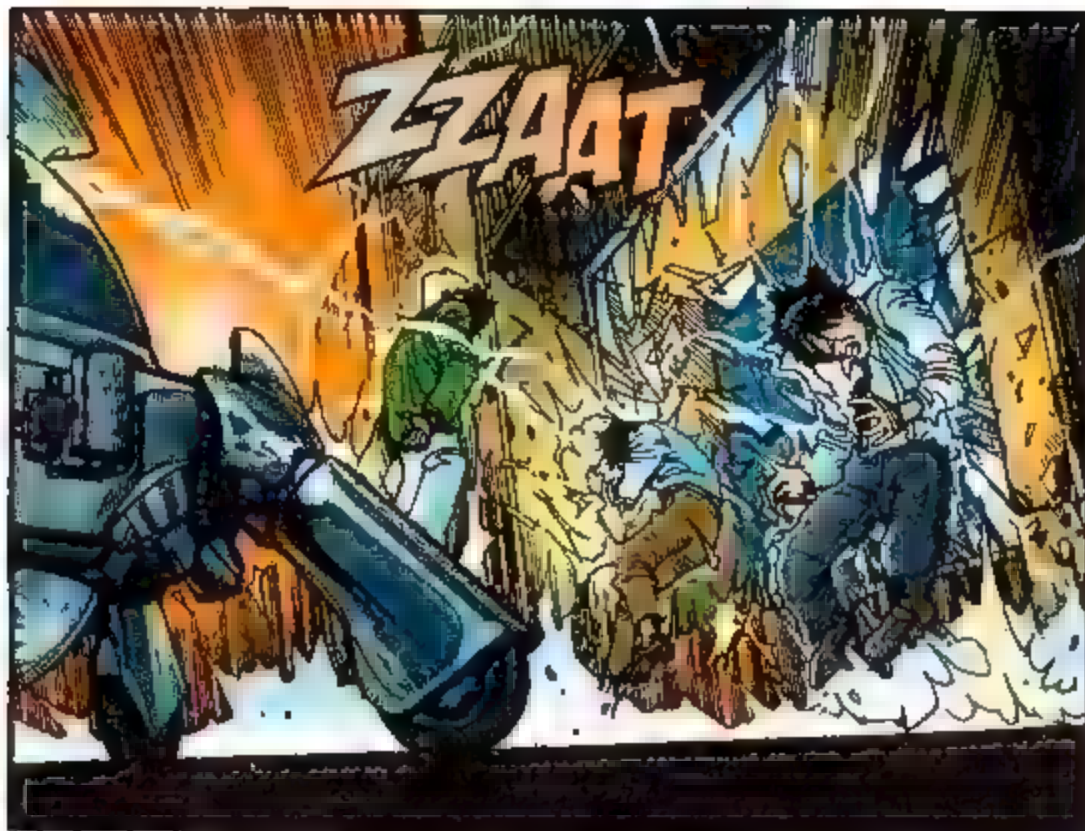












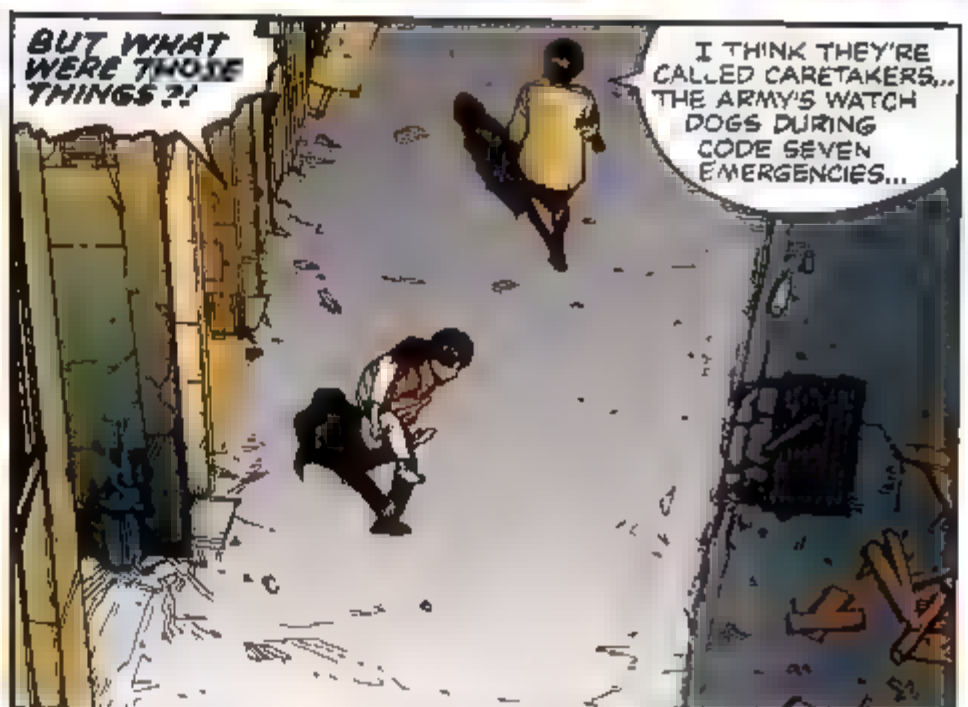
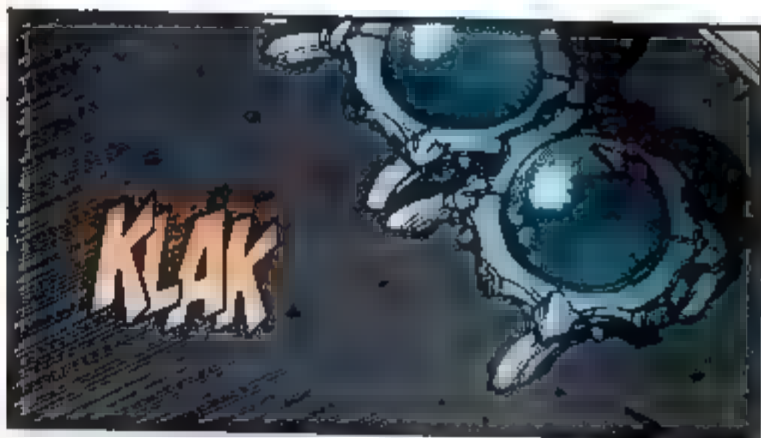
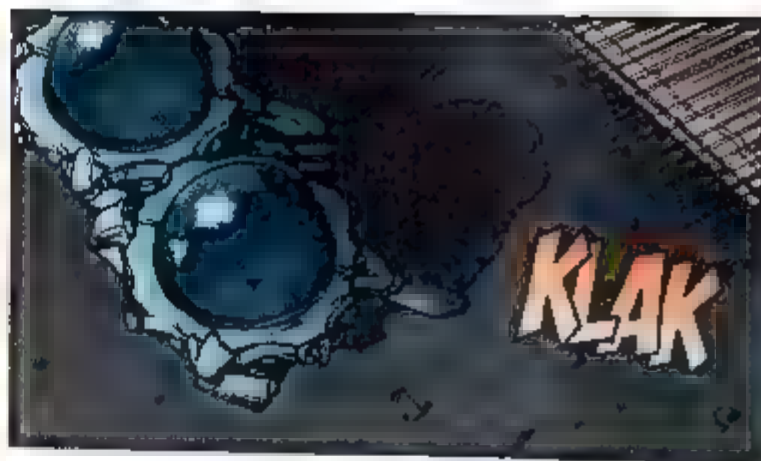
CODE SEVEN
ALERT! CODE
SEVEN ALERT!

THIS IS A STATE
OF NATIONAL
EMERGENCY.
PUBLIC ORDER
MUST BE PRE-
SERVED.

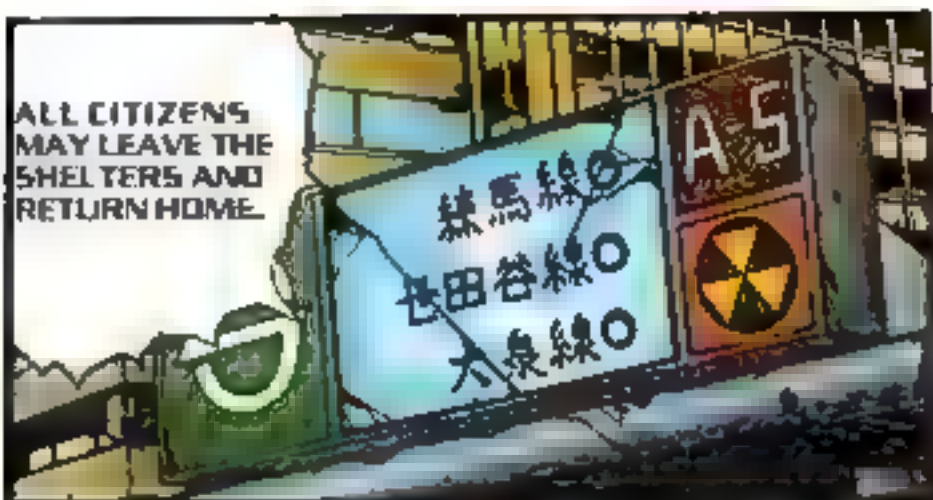
ALL
CITIZENS
HAVE BEEN
PLACED
UNDER
MILITARY
JURISDI-
TION.

CODE
SEVEN
ALERT?

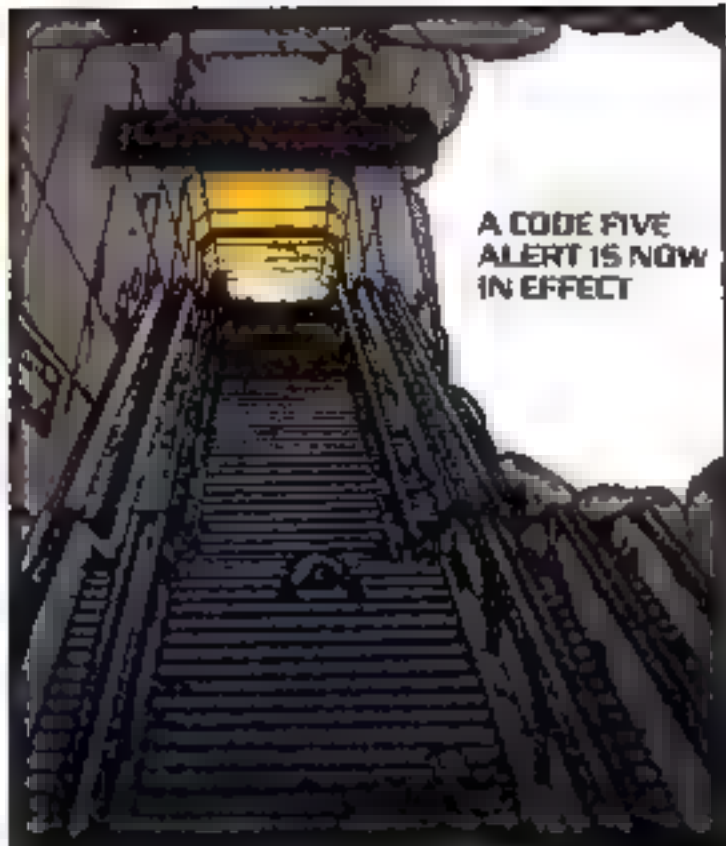




ALL CITIZENS
MAY LEAVE THE
SHELTERS AND
RETURN HOME.



A CODE FIVE
ALERT IS NOW
IN EFFECT



BE ADVISED THAT YOU
ARE STILL UNDER
MILITARY JURISDICTION.



THIS IS STILL
A STATE OF
NATIONAL
EMERGENCY.



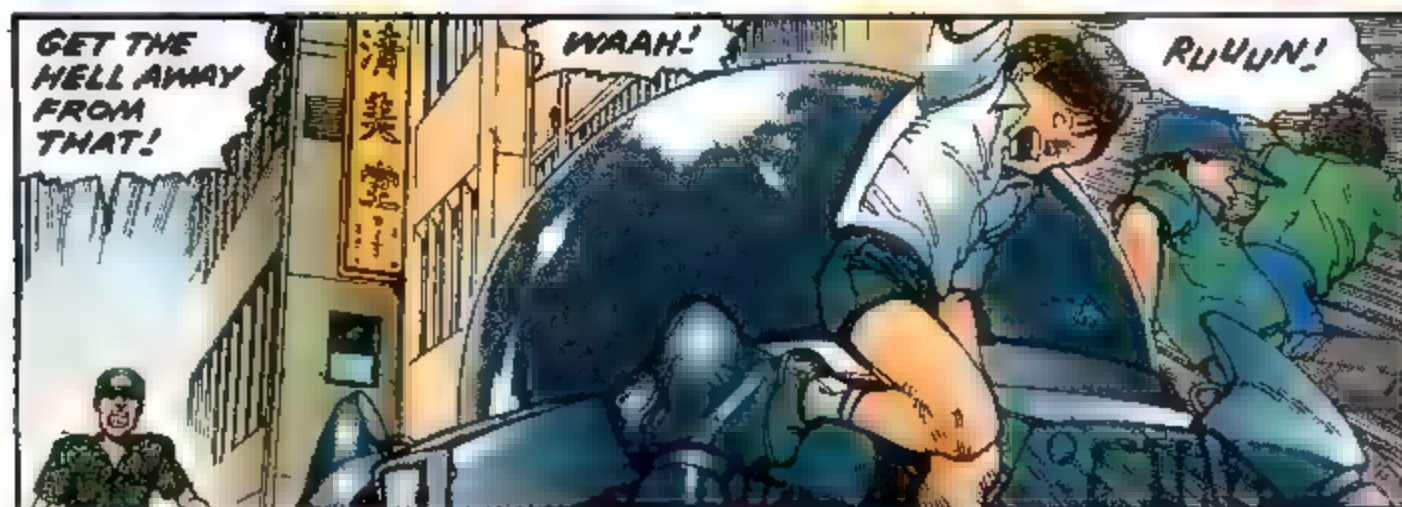
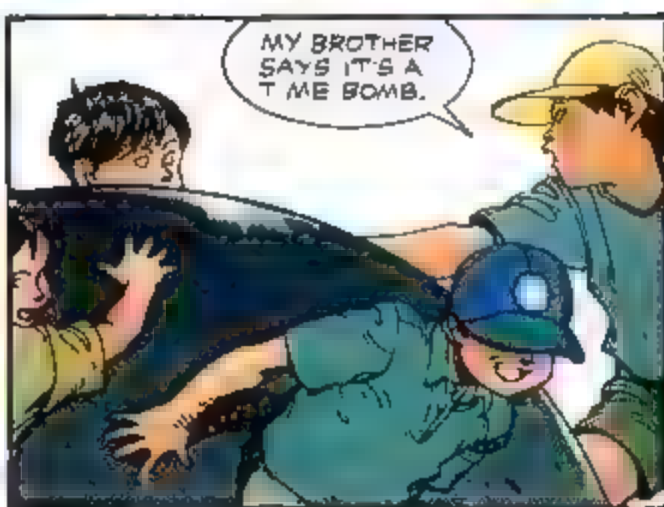
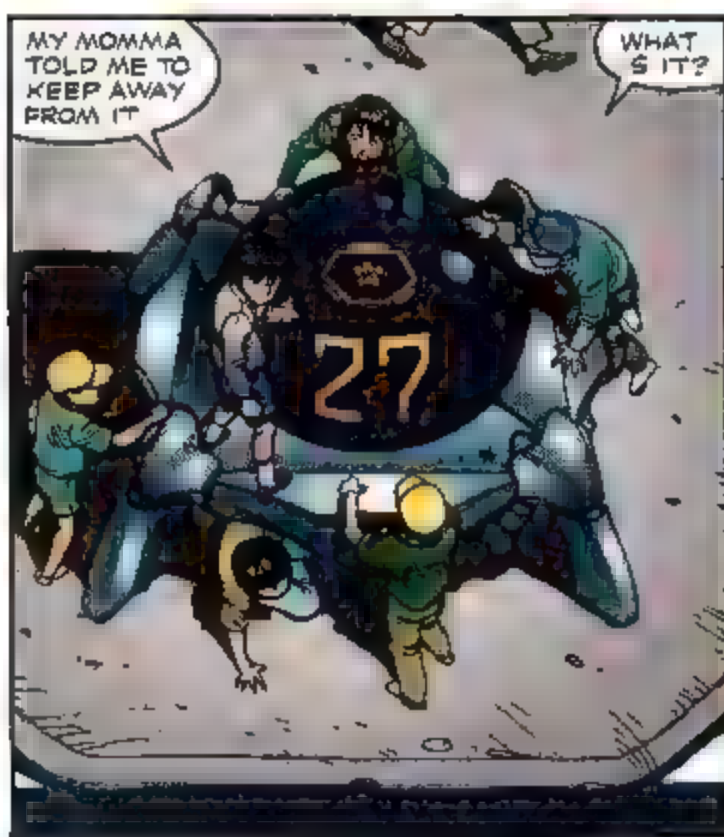
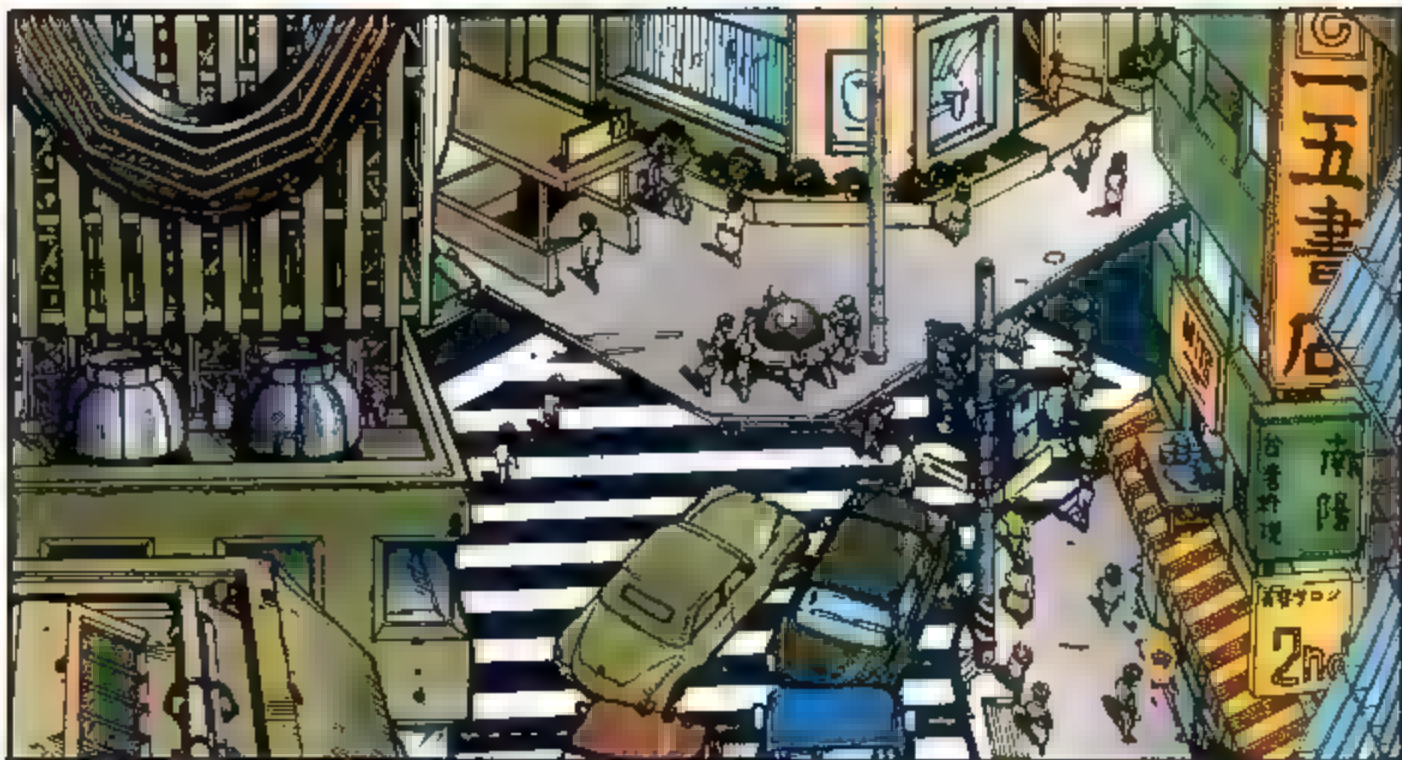
THE FOLLOWING
OFFICES WILL BE
RELIEVED
OF DUTY
FROM THE
GOVERNMENT —

— THE HIGH-
WAY AND
TRAFFIC
SAFETY
PATROLS, THE
RAILROADS,
POST OFFICES,
THE TELE-
GRAPH . . .

... ALL RADIO,
TELEVISION,
AND OTHER
COMMUNICATION
AND INFORMATION NETWORKS
... ALL PRIVATE
AND PUBLIC
SCHOOLS ...

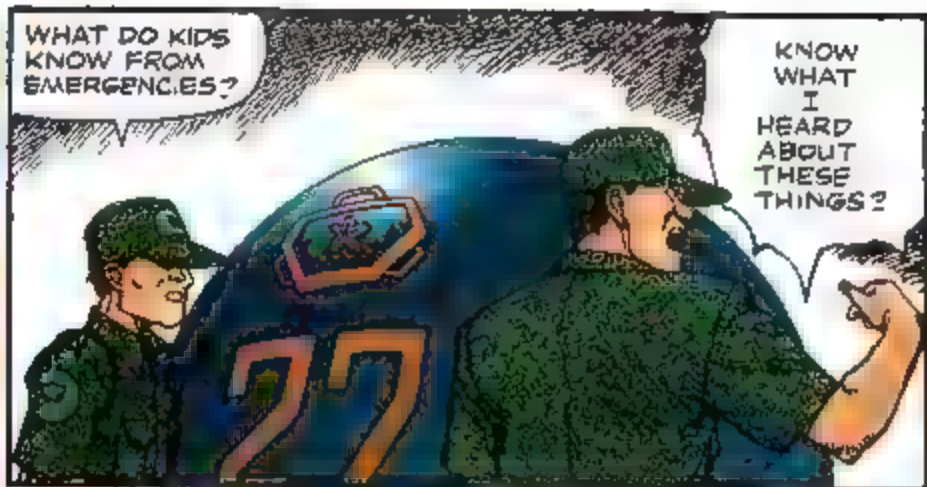
... THESE
ORDERS SHALL
APPLY TO ALL
SERVICES, IN-
CLUDING THOSE
WHICH WERE
PREVIOUSLY
SELF-GOVERN-
ING.







YOU
STUPID
PIG!



WHAT DO KIDS
KNOW FROM
EMERGENCIES?

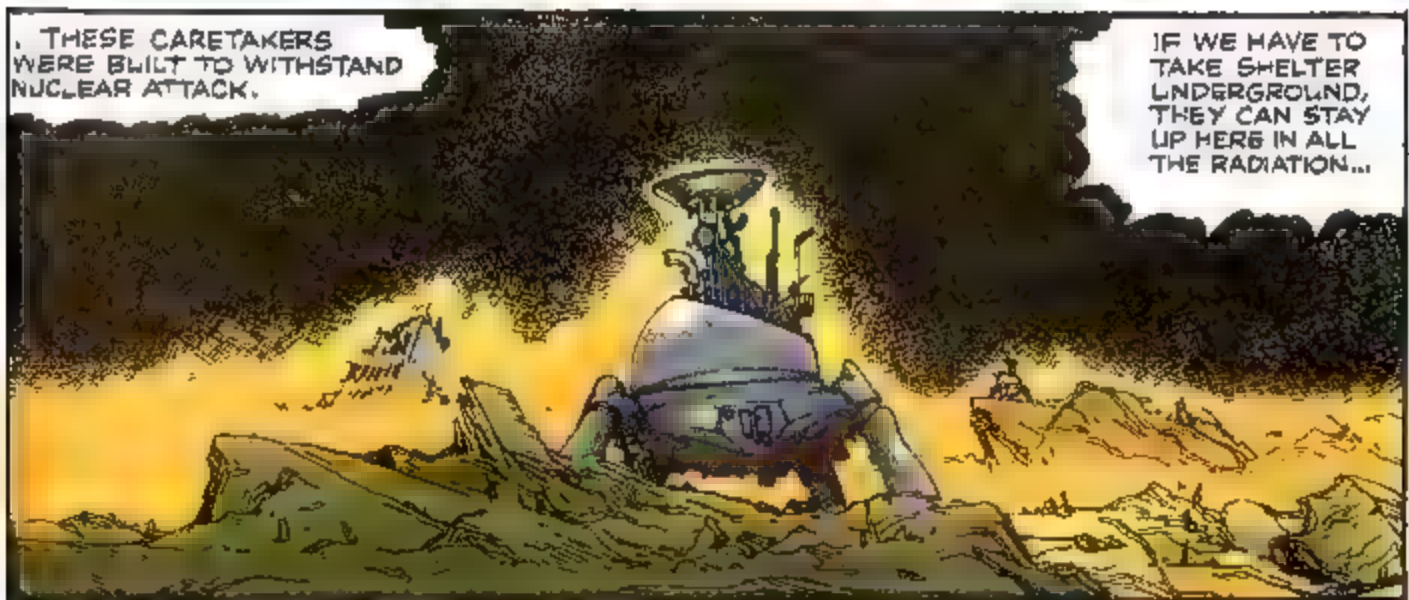
KNOW
WHAT
I
HEARD
ABOUT
THESE
THINGS?



WHAT?



YESTERDAY
AT THE
ENLISTED
MEN'S
CLUB
SOMEONE
SAID...

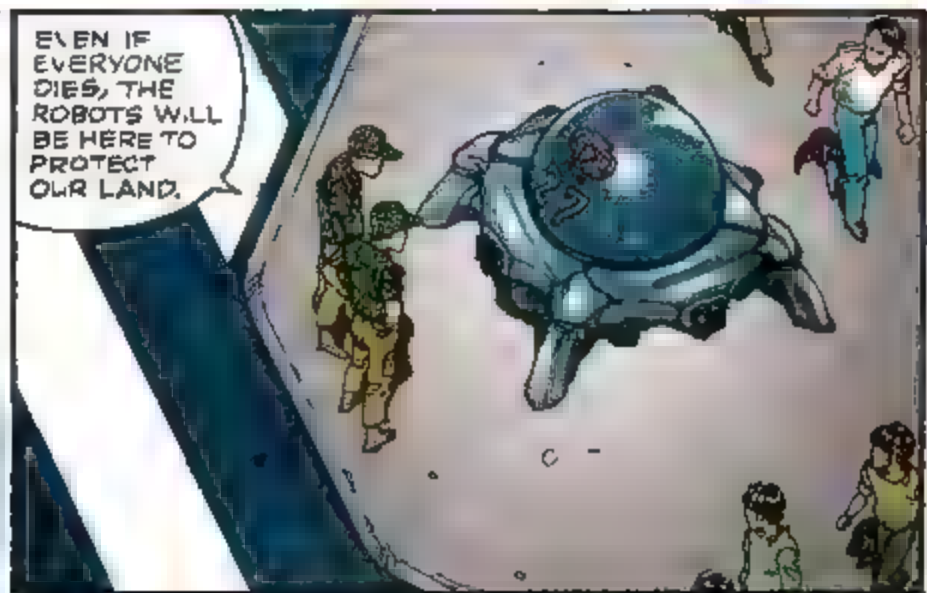


THESE CARETAKERS
WERE BUILT TO WITHSTAND
NUCLEAR ATTACK.

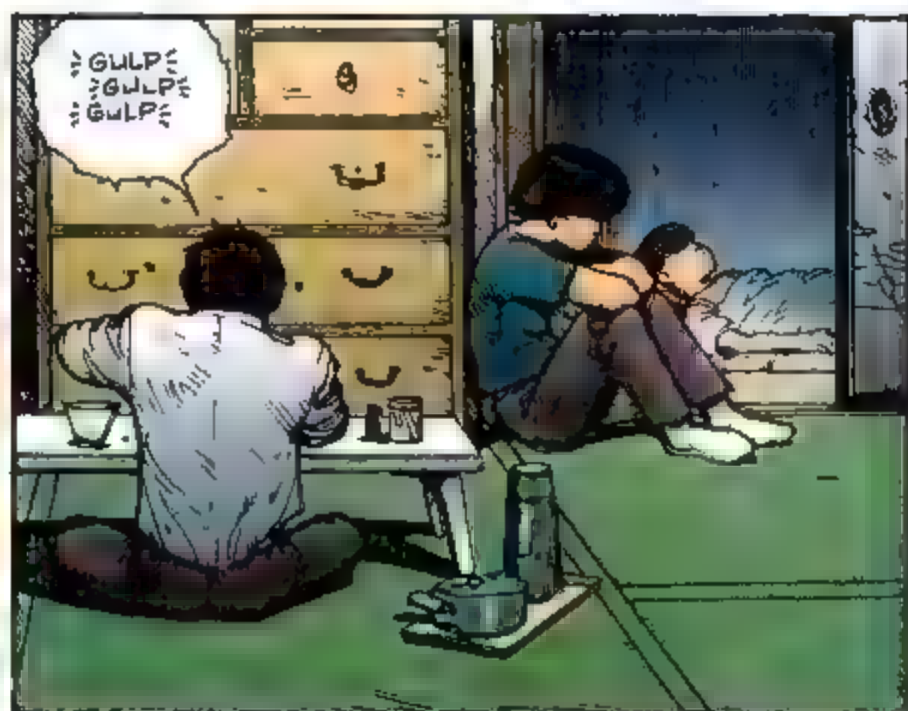
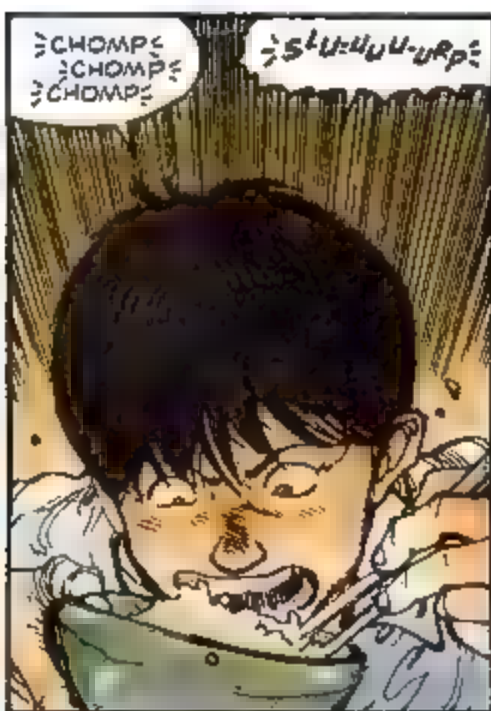
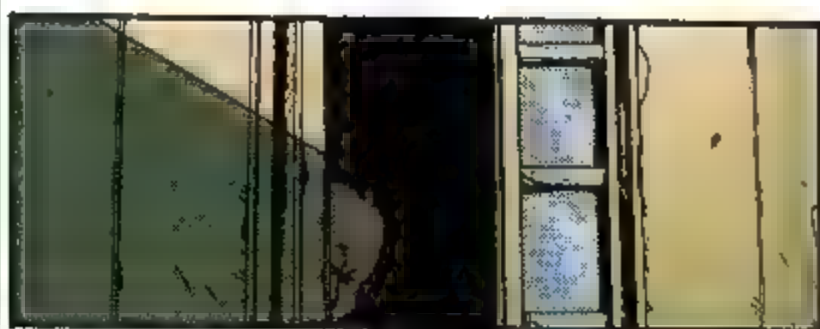
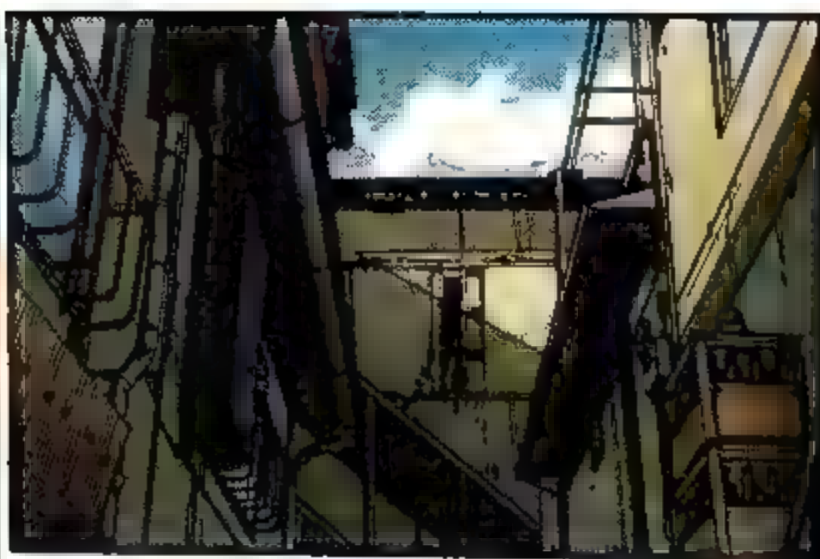
IF WE HAVE TO
TAKE SHELTER
UNDERGROUND,
THEY CAN STAY
UP HERE IN ALL
THE RADIATION...



...AND
FIGHT OFF
ANYONE
WHO
TRIES TO
INVADE.



EVEN IF
EVERYONE
DIES, THE
ROBOTS WILL
BE HERE TO
PROTECT
OUR LAND.





**DON'T BE
ABSURD!**

BUT...

**BUT ALL
INFORMATION
REGARDING
AKIRA IS
CLASSIFIED!**

**WE CAN
HARDLY
ISSUE A
PRESS
RELEASE
TO THAT
EFFECT!**

**NO
BUTS!**

**PRECISELY
MY POINT!**

LISTEN...

**SHUT
UP AND
SIT
DOWN!**

**PAY
ATTENTION.**

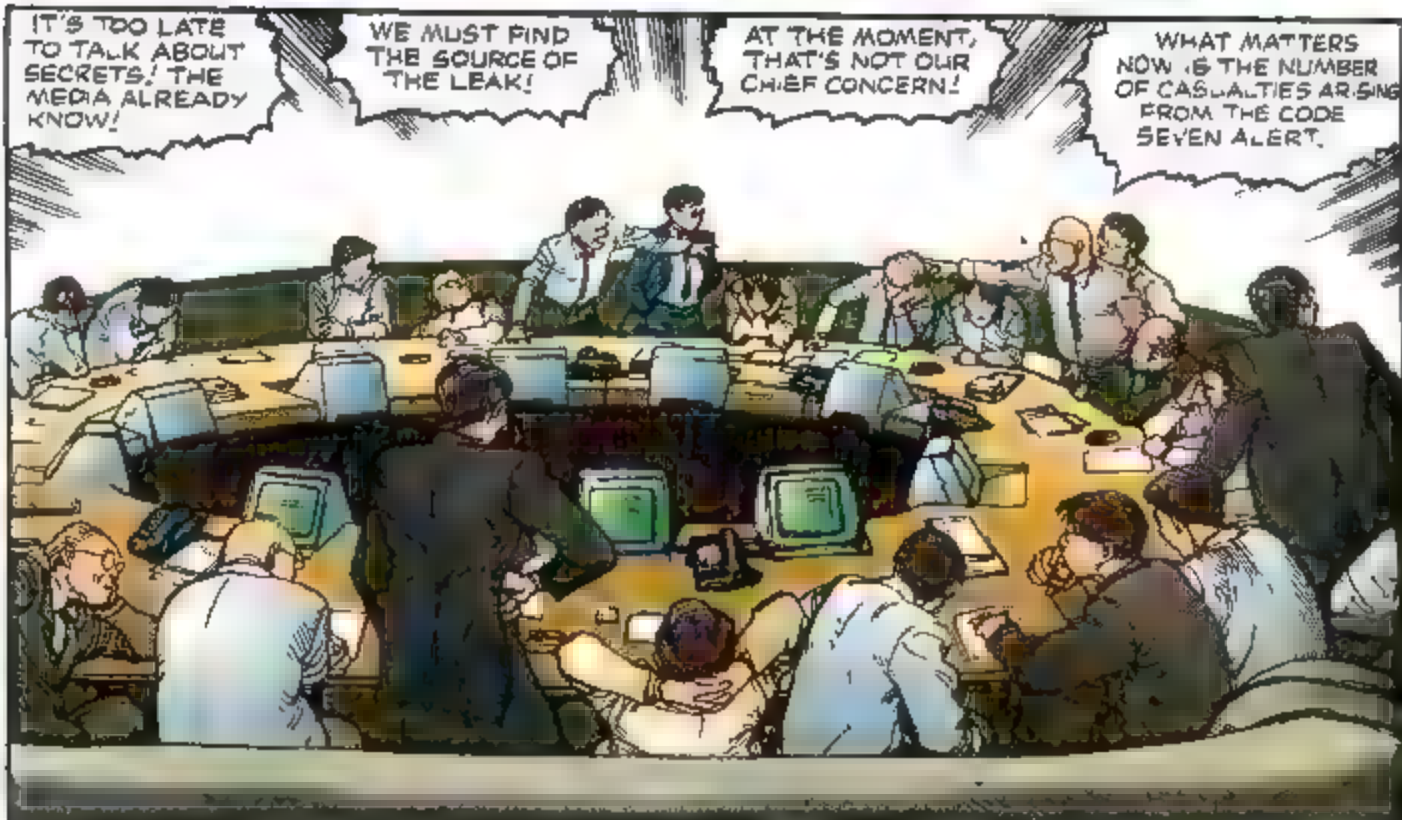
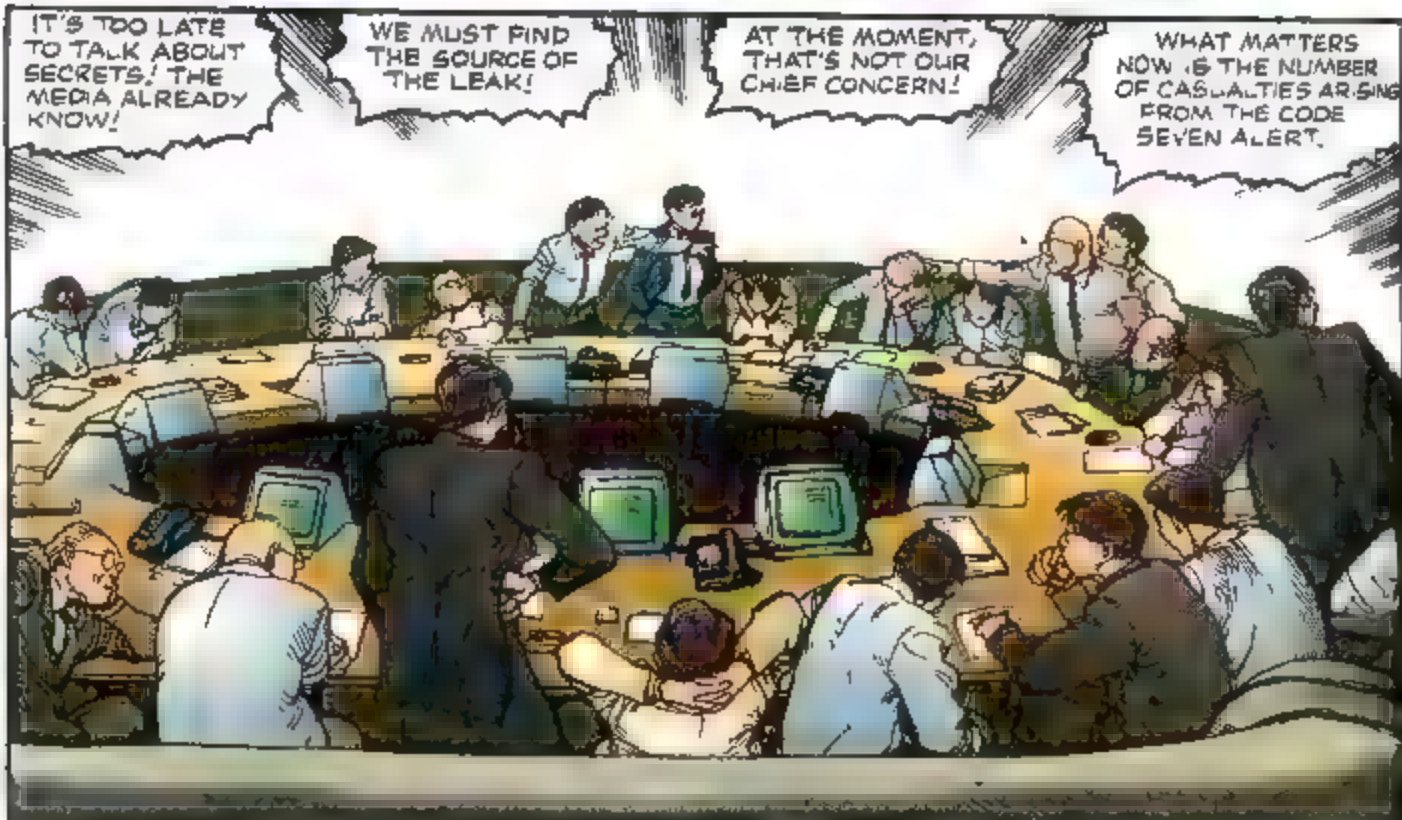
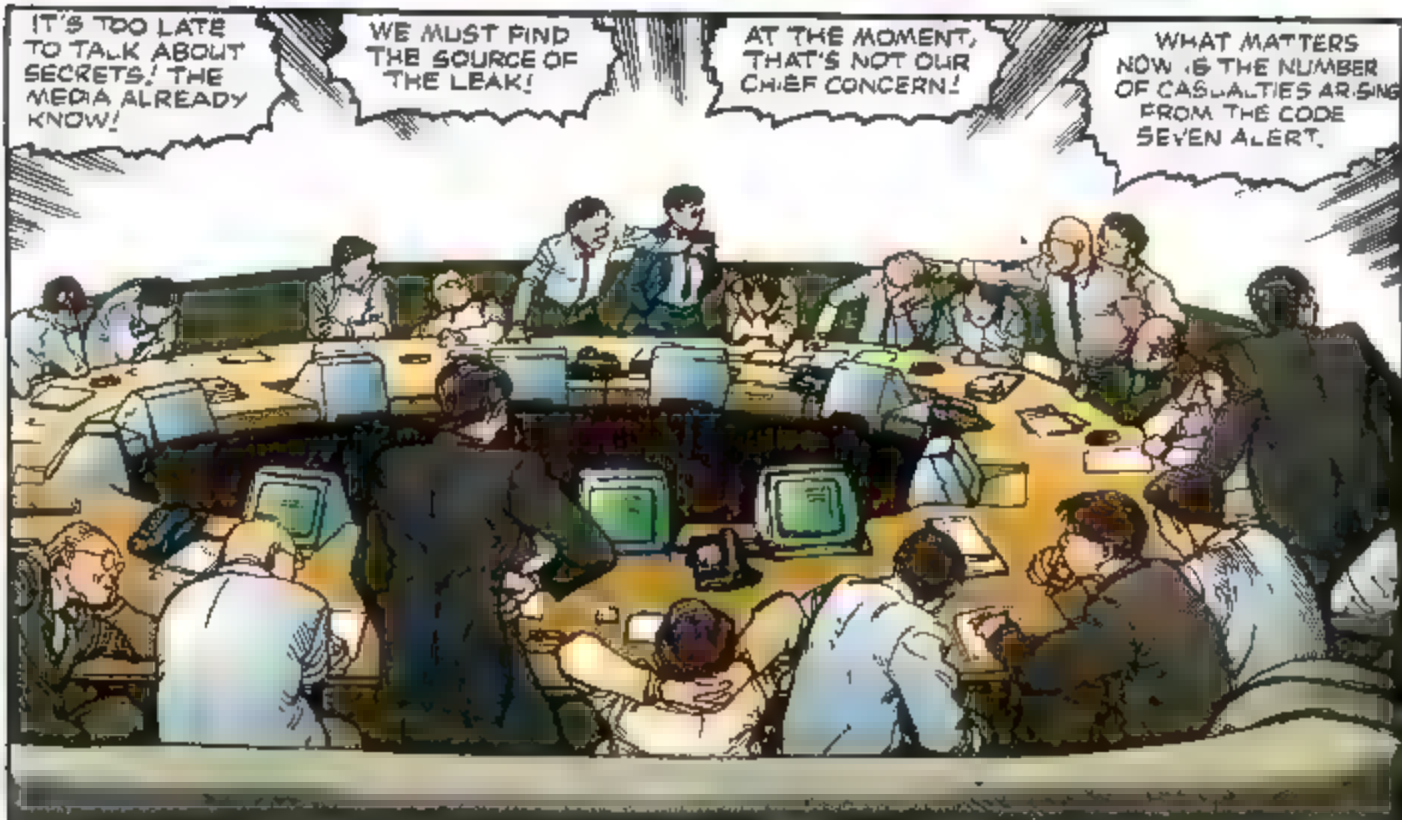
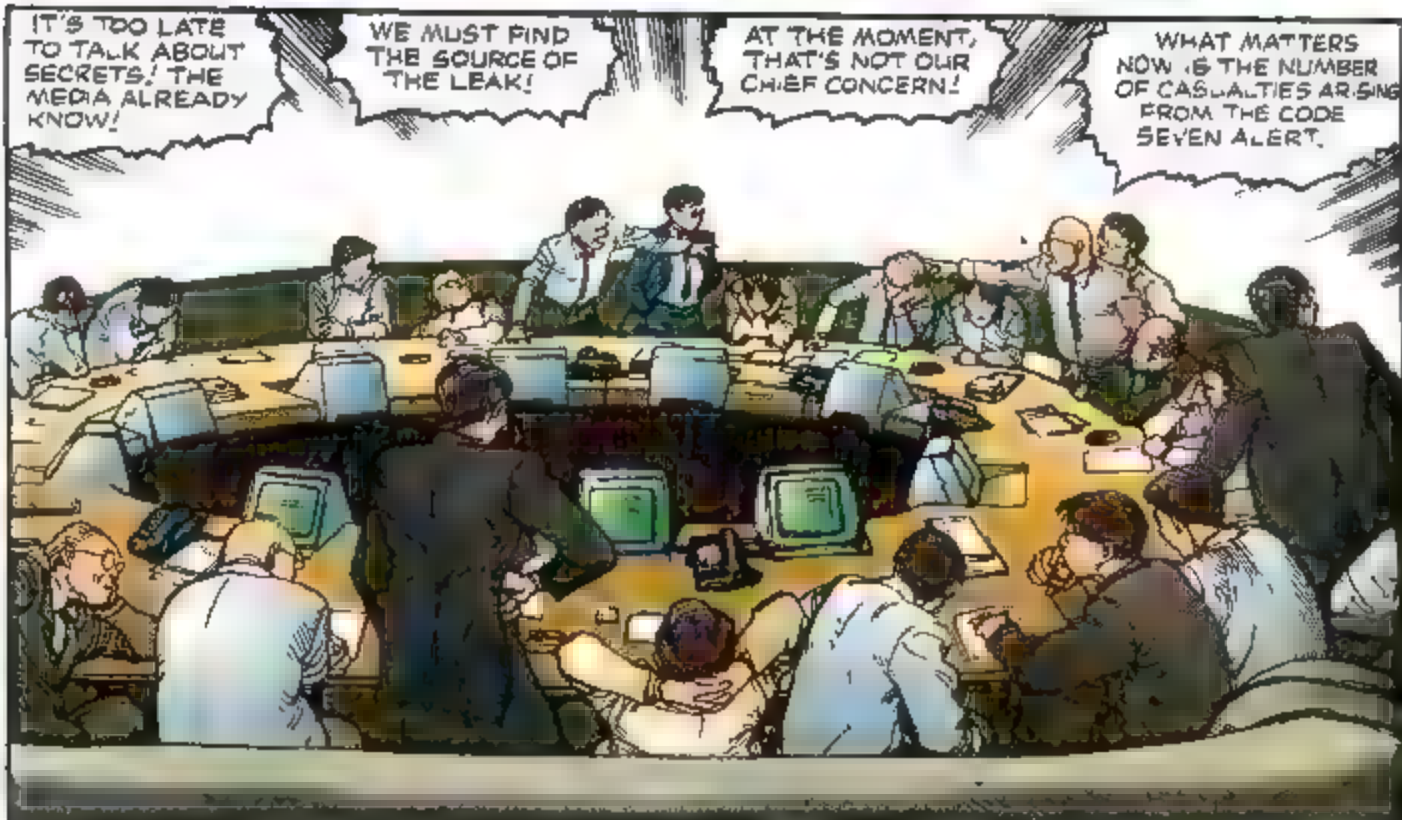
**WE
CANNOT
GO
ON
AS
IF
NOTHING
HAD
HAPPENED!**

**IT'S TOO LATE
TO TALK ABOUT
SECRETS. THE
MEDIA ALREADY
KNOW!**

**WE MUST FIND
THE SOURCE OF
THE LEAK!**

**AT THE MOMENT,
THAT'S NOT OUR
CHIEF CONCERN!**

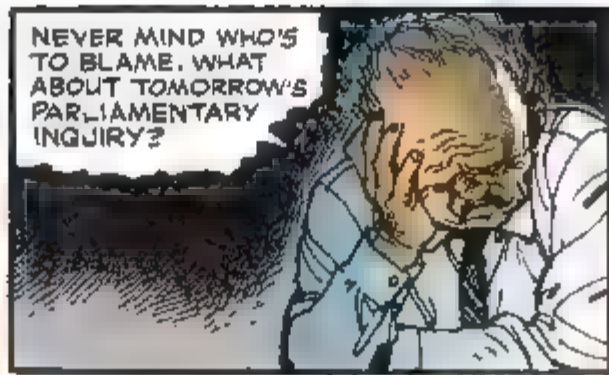
**WHAT MATTERS
NOW IS THE NUMBER
OF CASUALTIES ARISING
FROM THE CODE
SEVEN ALERT.**



370 PEOPLE ARE DEAD, AND WE STILL DON'T HAVE A COMPLETE TOTAL ON THE NUMBER WHO WERE INJURED. WHO CAN WE HOLD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THIS?



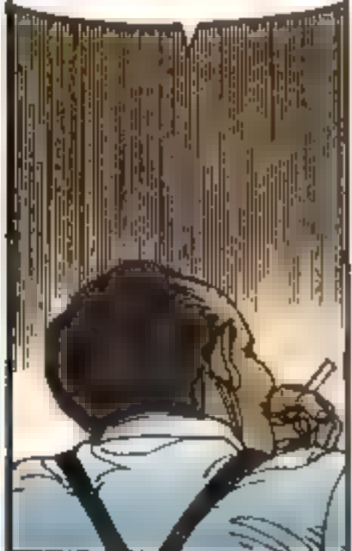
NEVER MIND WHO'S TO BLAME. WHAT ABOUT TOMORROW'S PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY?



WE CAN HARDLY OFFER THEM THE AKIRA PROJECT AS AN EXPLANATION FOR WHAT'S OCCURRED.



ONCE THE FOREIGN POWERS GET WIND OF THIS, IT WILL ALTER THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE WEST AND THE EAST. WE CAN'T JUST OVERTURN THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

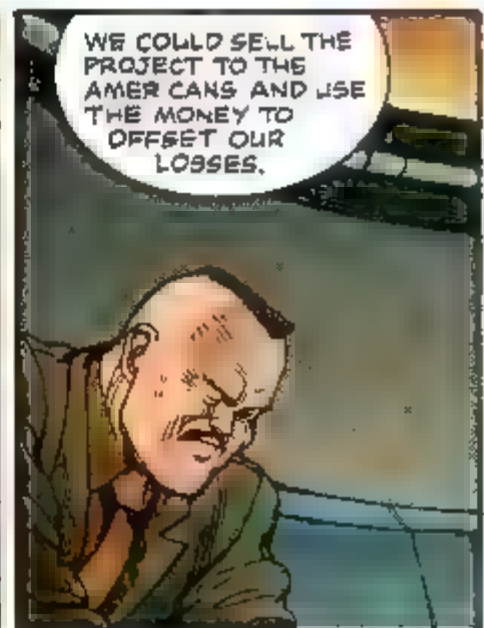


A PRETENSE OF IGNORANCE IS OUR BEST COURSE.

THE GOVERNOR SUGGESTS THAT SO HE CAN AVOID TAKING RESPONSIBILITY



WE COULD SELL THE PROJECT TO THE AMERICANS AND USE THE MONEY TO OFFSET OUR LOSSES.



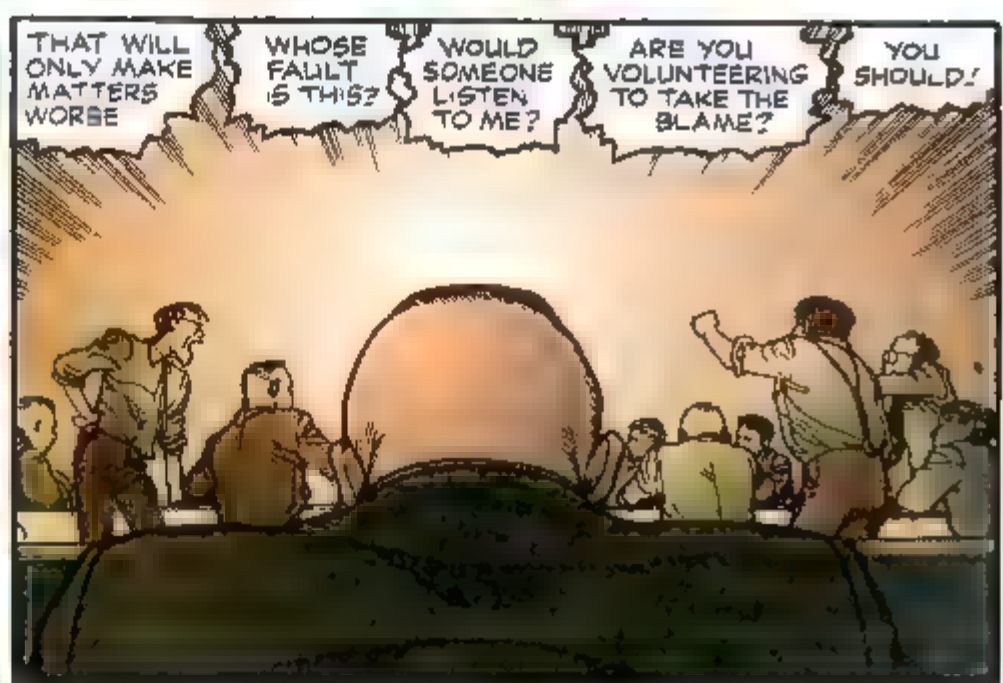
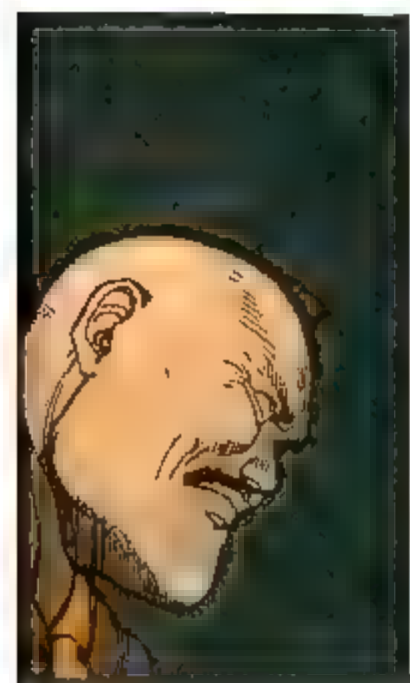
THAT WILL ONLY MAKE MATTERS WORSE

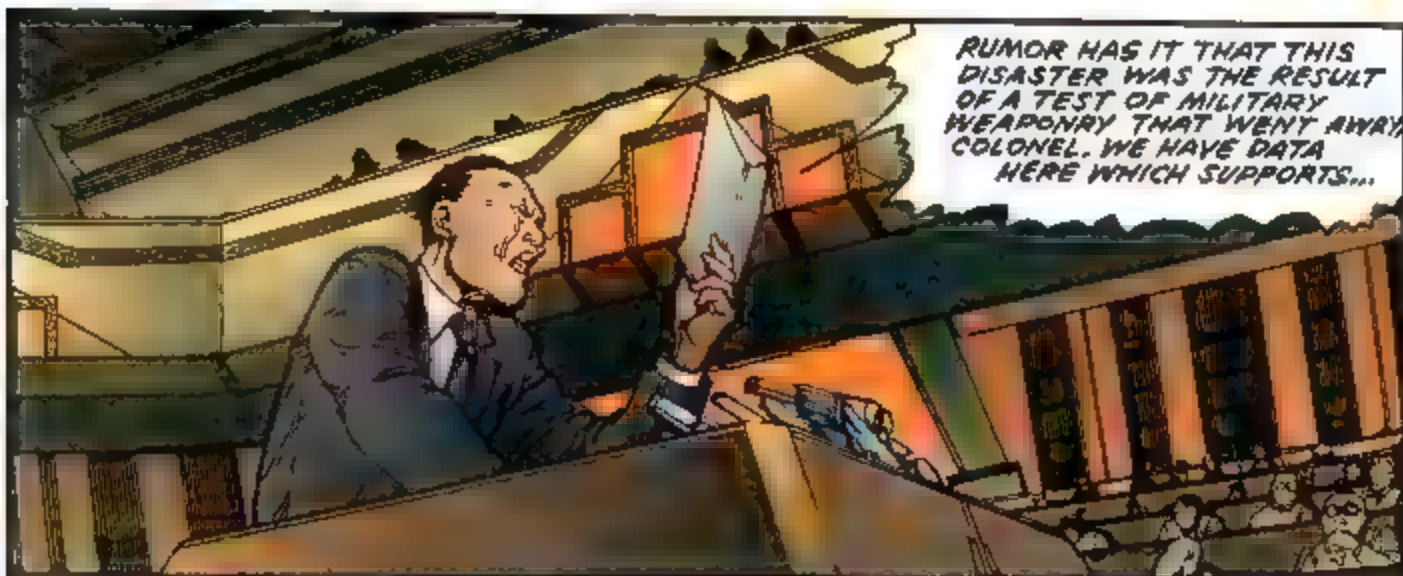
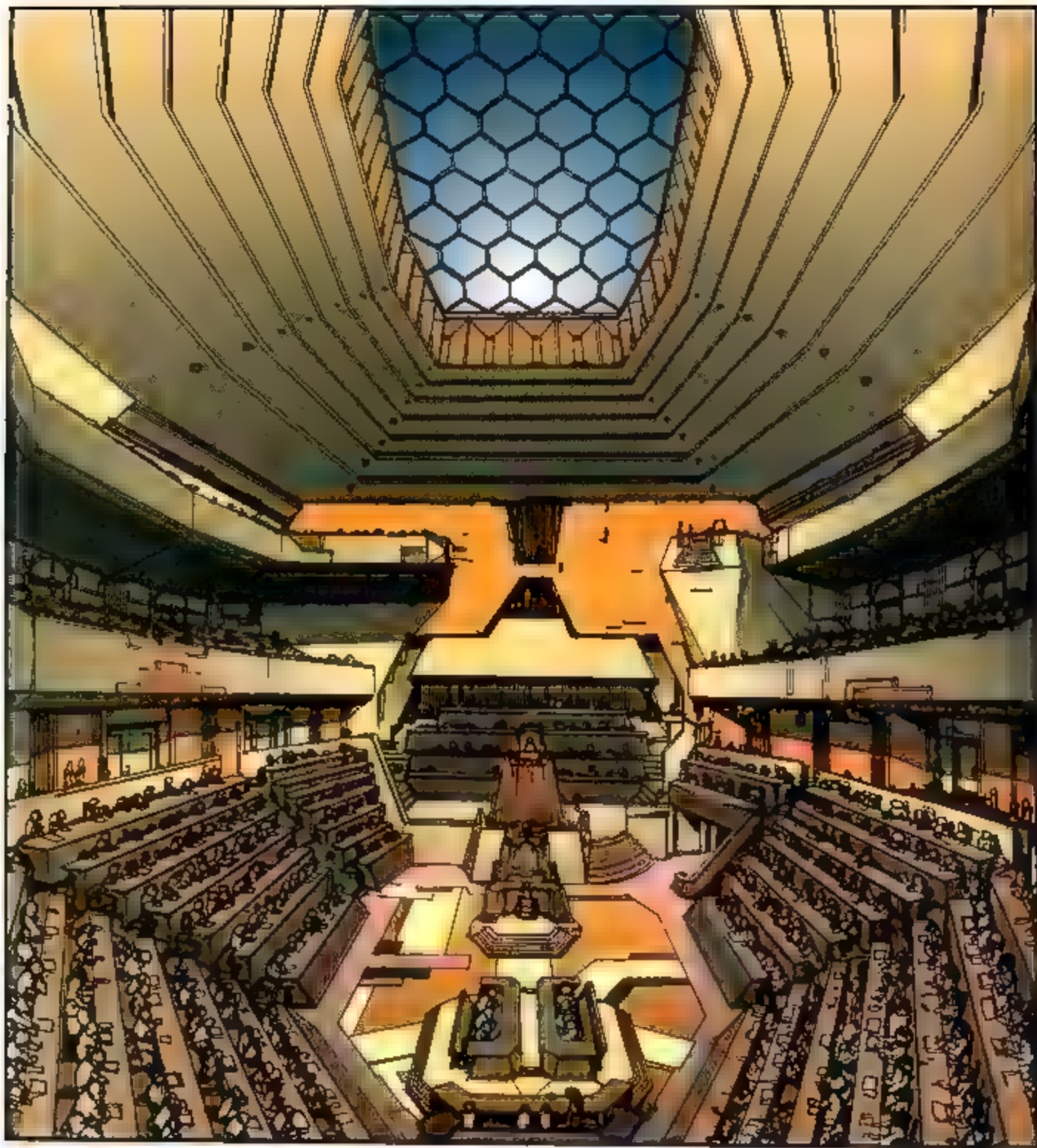
WHOSE FAULT IS THIS?

WOULD SOMEONE LISTEN TO ME?

ARE YOU VOLUNTEERING TO TAKE THE BLAME?

YOU SHOULD!





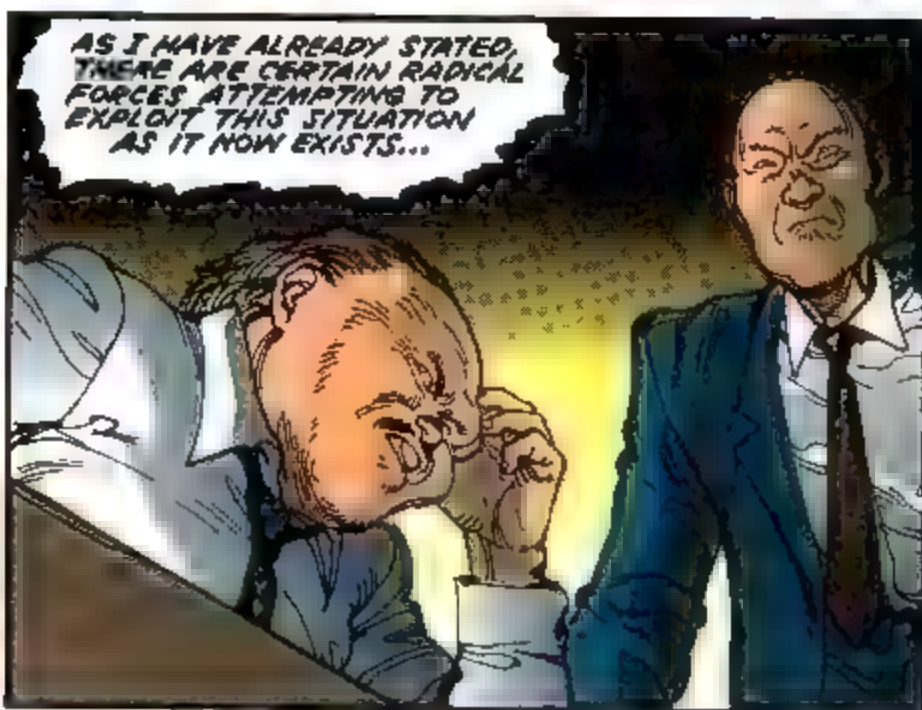
THERE ARE ALWAYS RUMORS!
RUMORS AND MISINFORMATION
DISSEMINATED BY RADICAL
FORCES TRYING TO CREATE
A NATIONAL STATE OF PANIC.



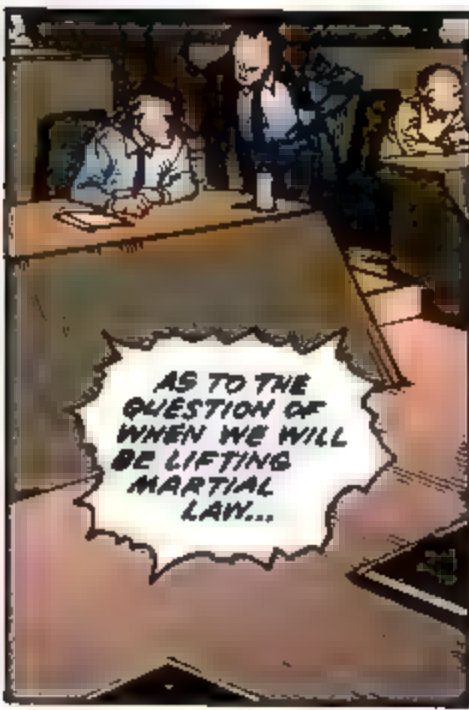
THE CODE SEVEN ALERT WAS SET IN
MOTION BY A COMPUTER ERROR.
THERE WAS A MALFUNCTION IN THE
DEFENSE SYSTEMS. THAT IS ALL IT
EVER WAS.



AS I HAVE ALREADY STATED,
THERE ARE CERTAIN RADICAL
FORCES ATTEMPTING TO
EXPLOIT THIS SITUATION
AS IT NOW EXISTS...



AS TO THE
QUESTION OF
WHEN WE WILL
BE LIFTING
MARTIAL
LAW...



THEREFORE, IN
THE INTERESTS OF
MAINTAINING
ORDER...

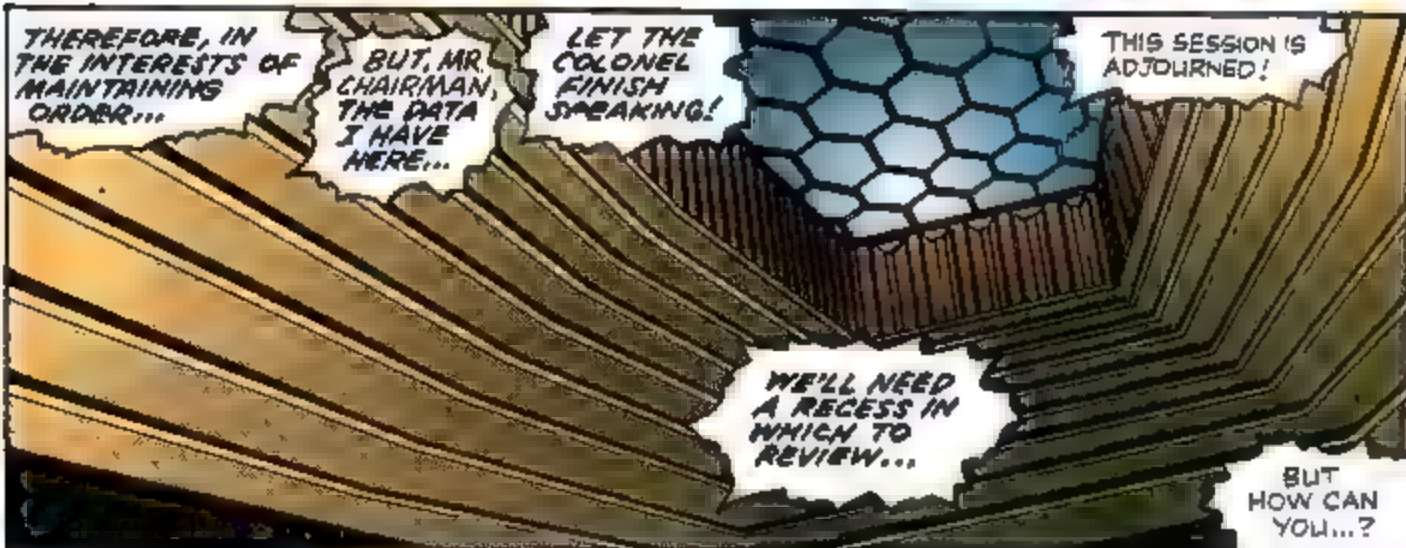
BUT, MR.
CHAIRMAN,
THE DATA
I HAVE
HERE...

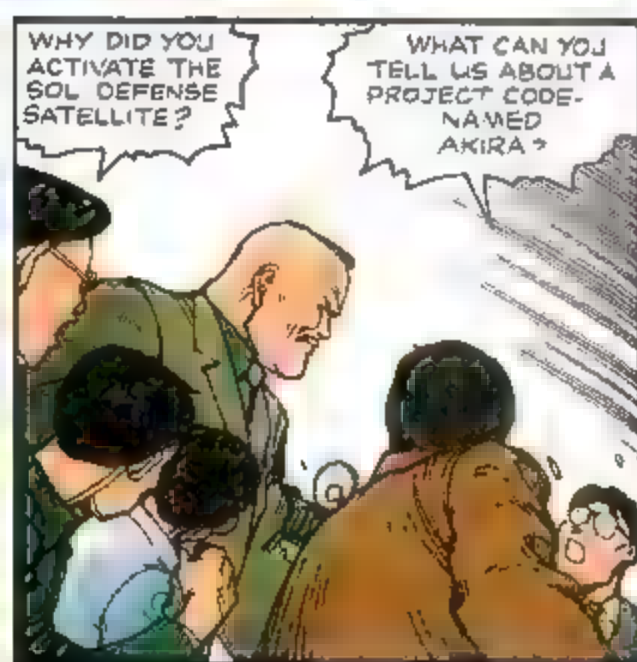
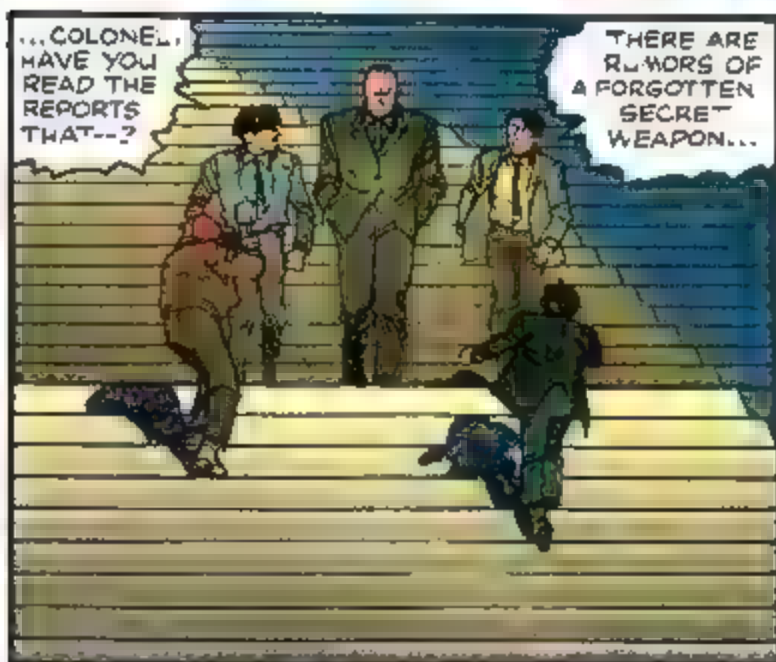
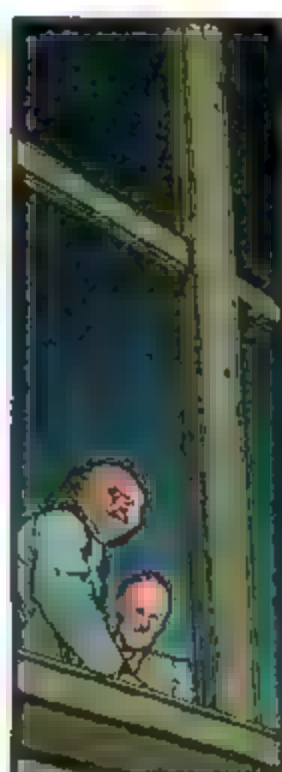
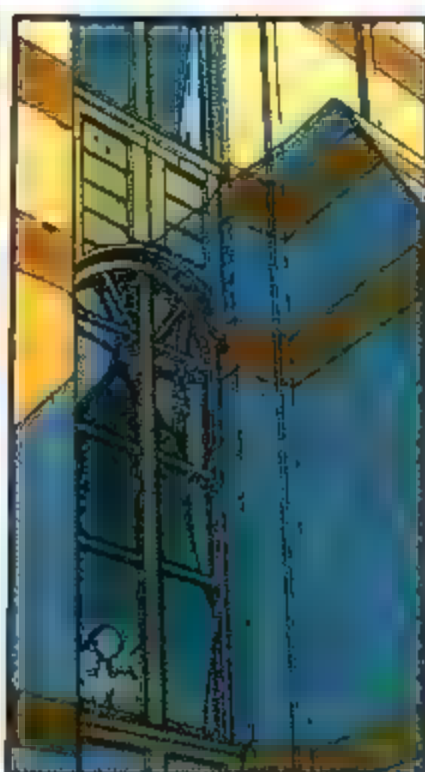
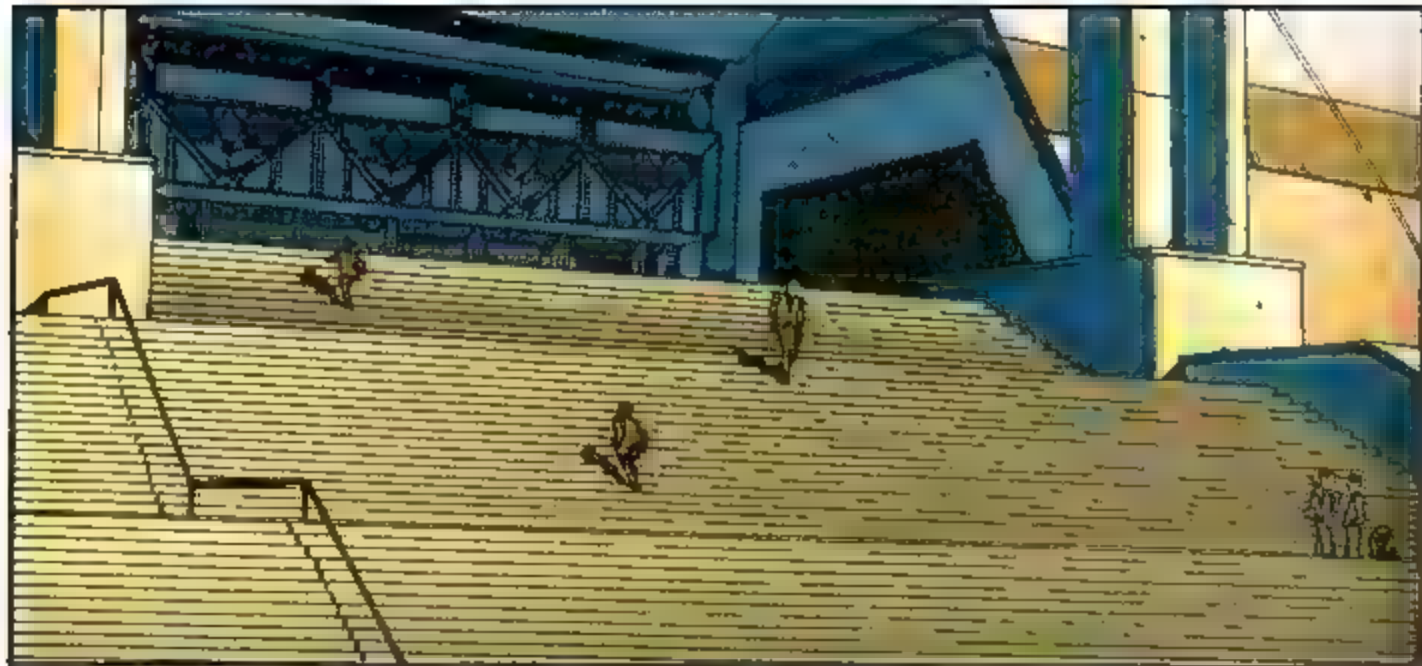
LET THE
COLONEL
FINISH
SPEAKING!

THIS SESSION IS
ADJOURNED!

WE'LL NEED
A RECESS IN
WHICH TO
REVIEW...

BUT
HOW CAN
YOU...?







MR. NEZU'S
OFFICE...

NO, I'M
AFRAID MR. NEZU
IS UNAVAILABLE AT
THE MOMENT

YES,
I SEE...
URGENT...

PERHAPS
IF YOU WERE
TO TELL
ME...

WHO
IS IT?



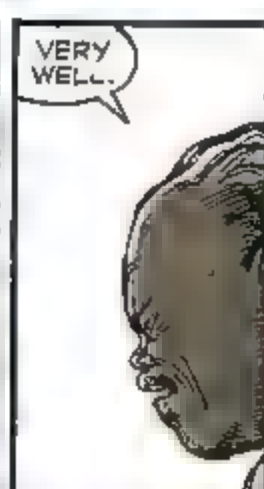
SHE INSISTS ON
SPEAKING WITH
YOU DIRECTLY,
SIR.

SHE SAYS SHE'S
RYUSAKU'S
SISTER.

RYU'S
SISTER...
KAY?



VERY
WELL...

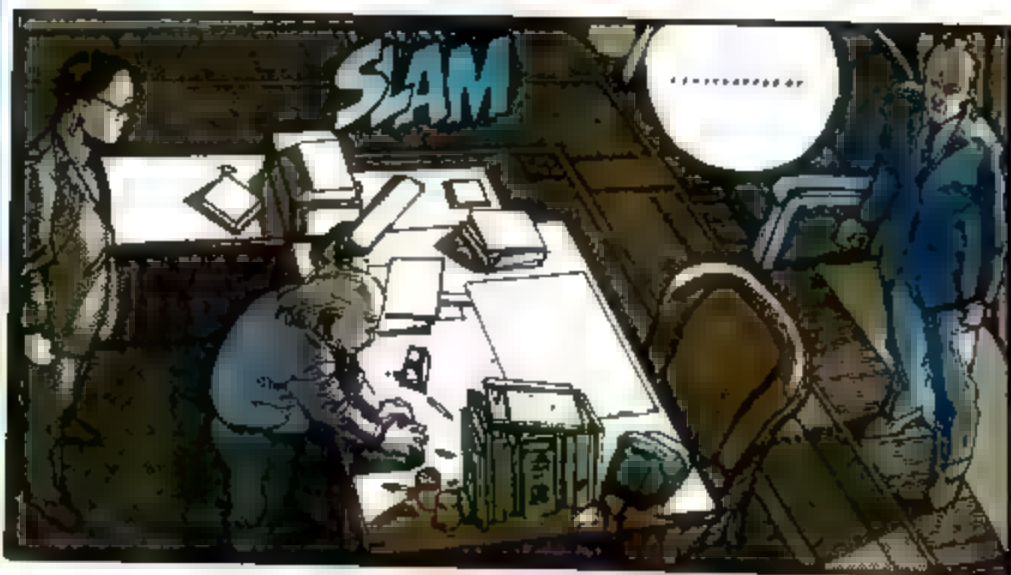
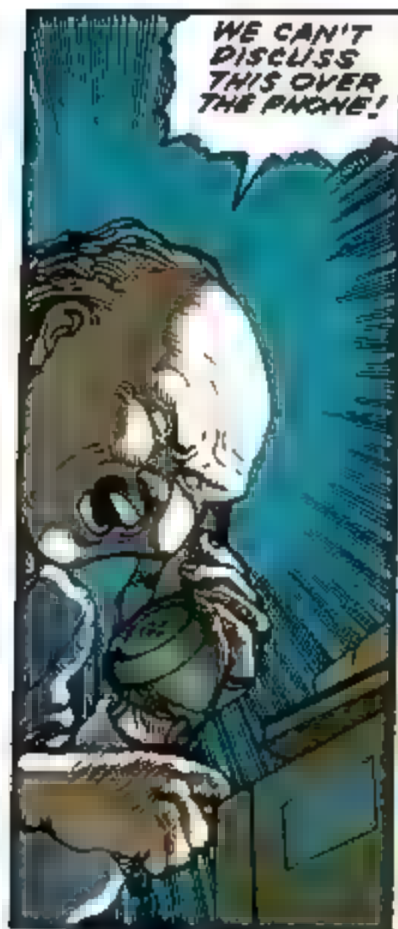


HELLO?
YES!
I TOLD YOU
NEVER
TO
CALL
ME
HERE!



WHAT?!

AKIRA?!



I MUST BEHAVE
WITH THE UTMOST
CIRCUMSPECTION.

BUT, I CAN USE THE
COVER OF THE MILITARY
EMERGENCY TO FIND
AKIRA AND CLEAN
OUT THE REVOLUTION-
ARIES ONCE AND
FOR ALL.

I UNDERSTAND,
SIR.

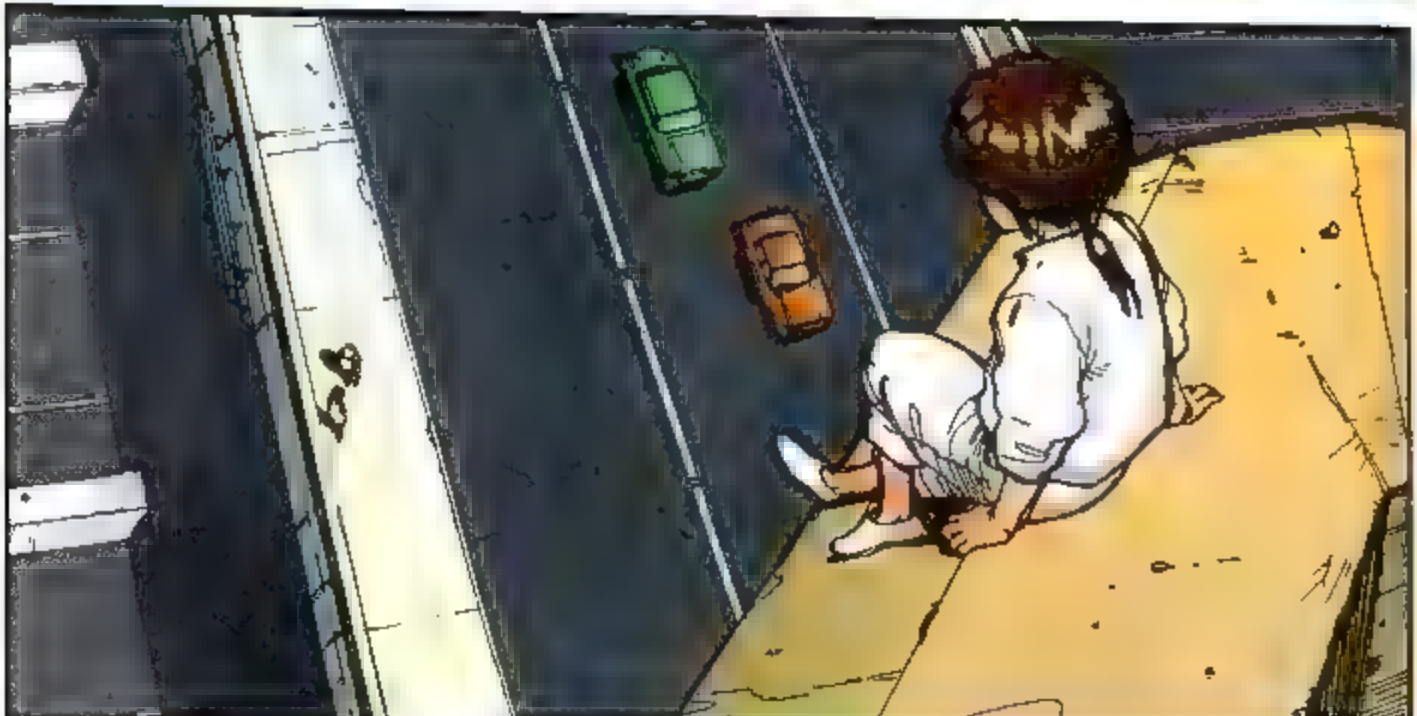
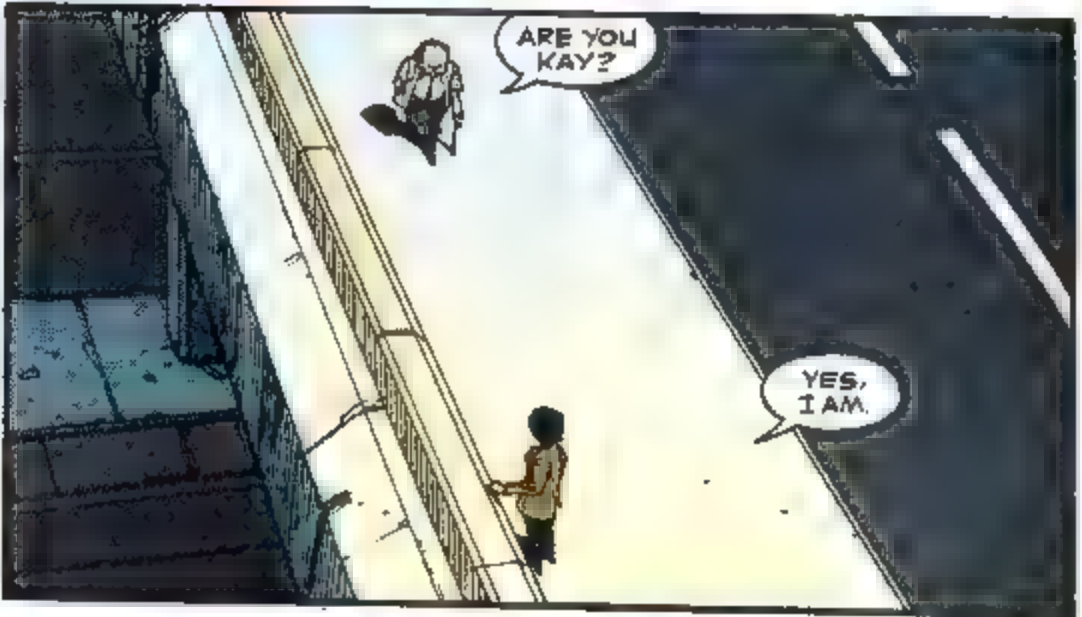
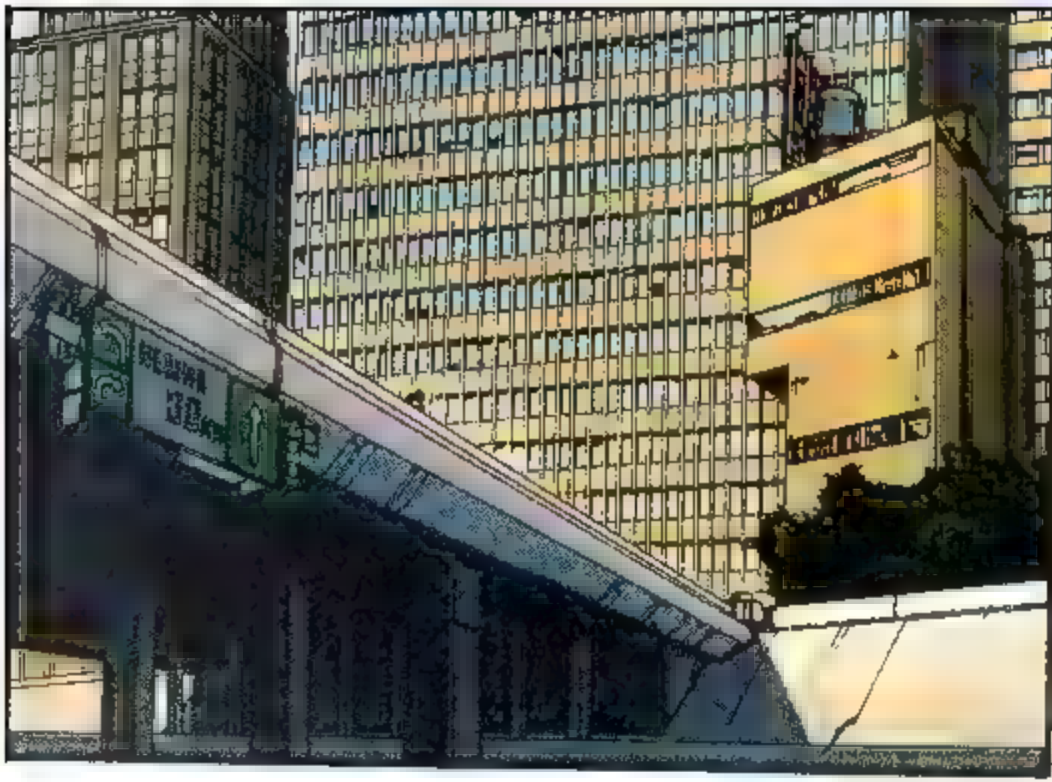
WHAT'S
MORE...

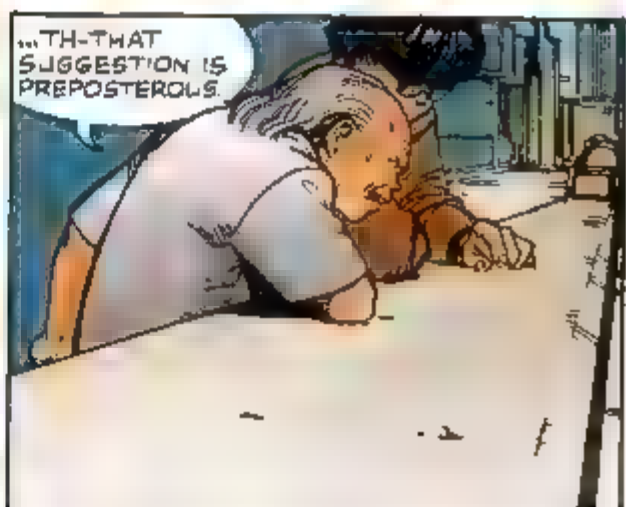
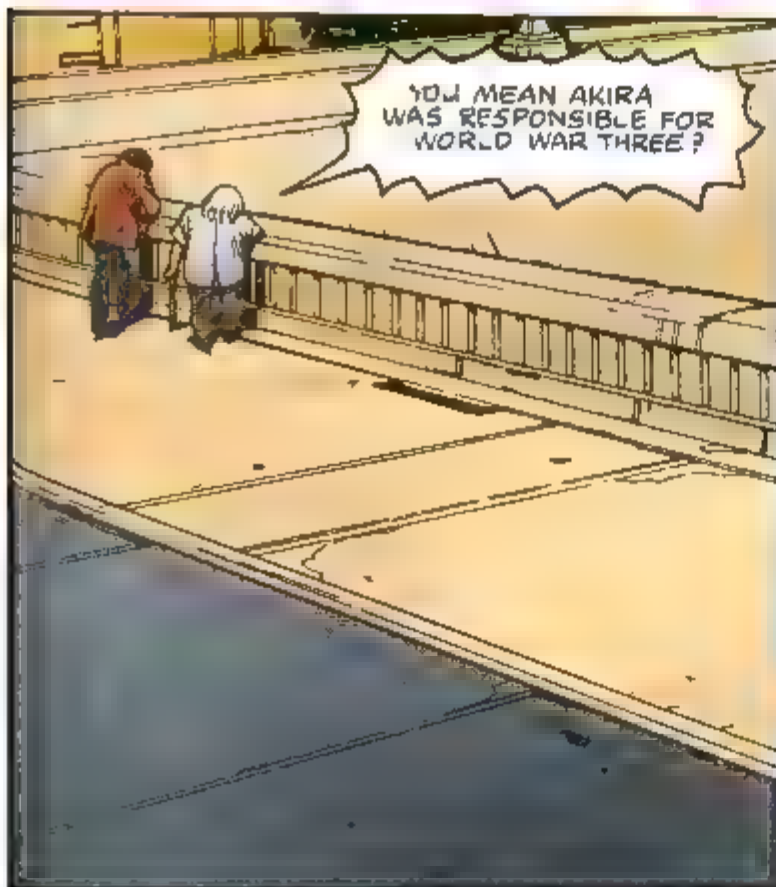
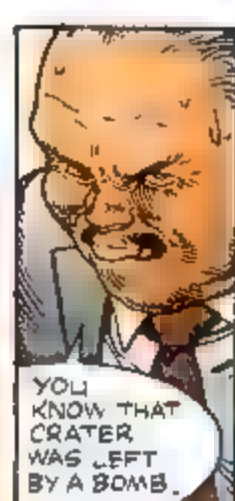
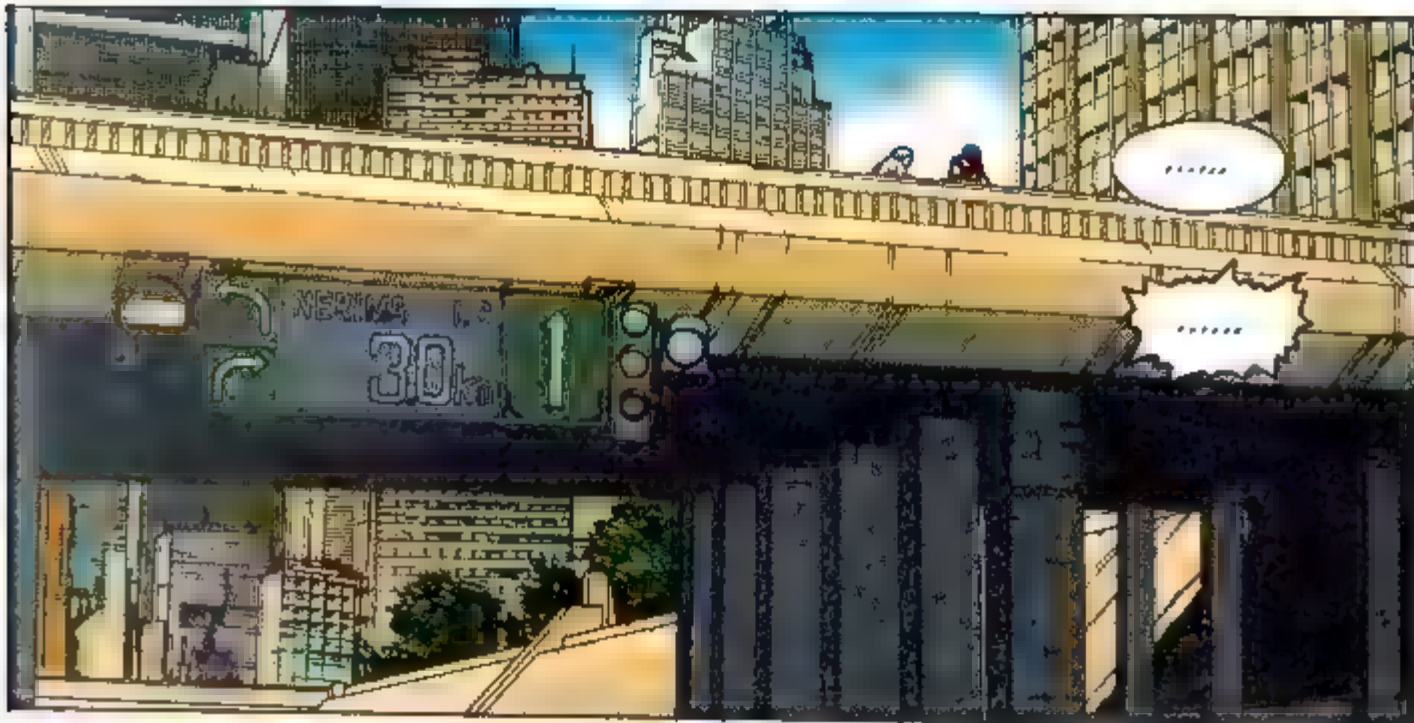
AT TIMES LIKE THESE,
UNSCRUPULOUS
INDIVIDUALS ALWAYS
TRY TO MANIPULATE
THE ARMY INTO
FURTHERING THEIR
PERSONAL AIMS.

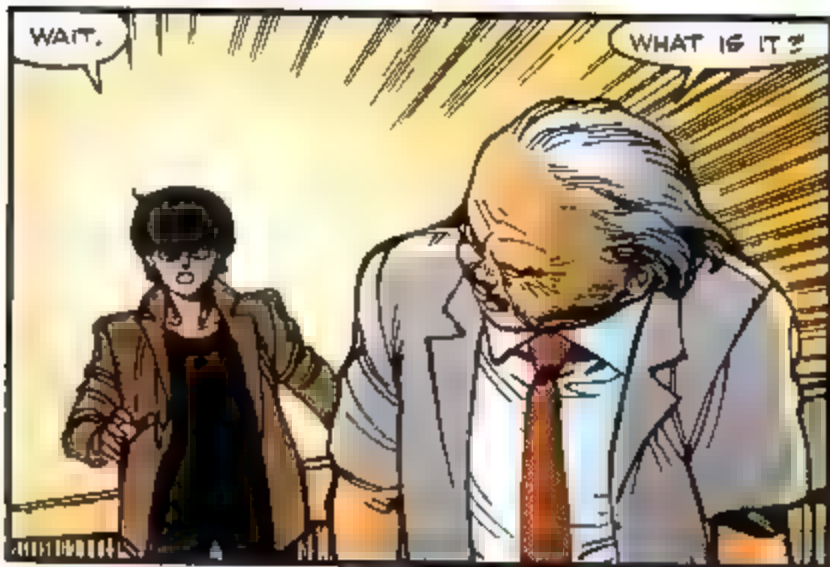
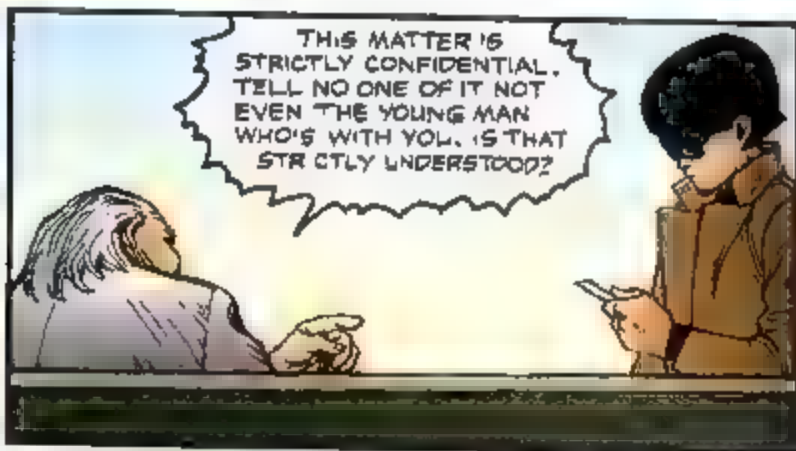
WE MUST
GUARD
AGAINST
SUCH
ABUSES!

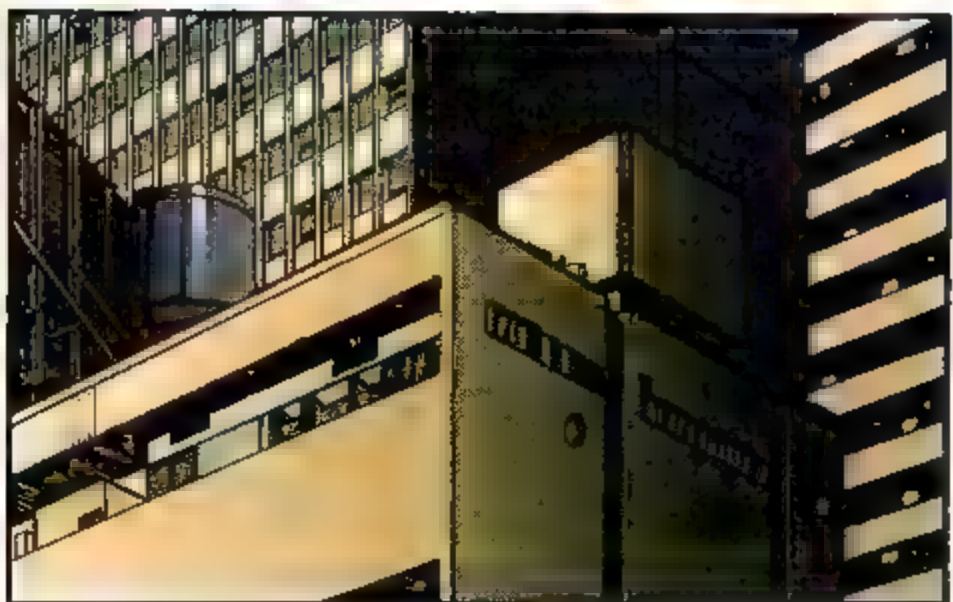
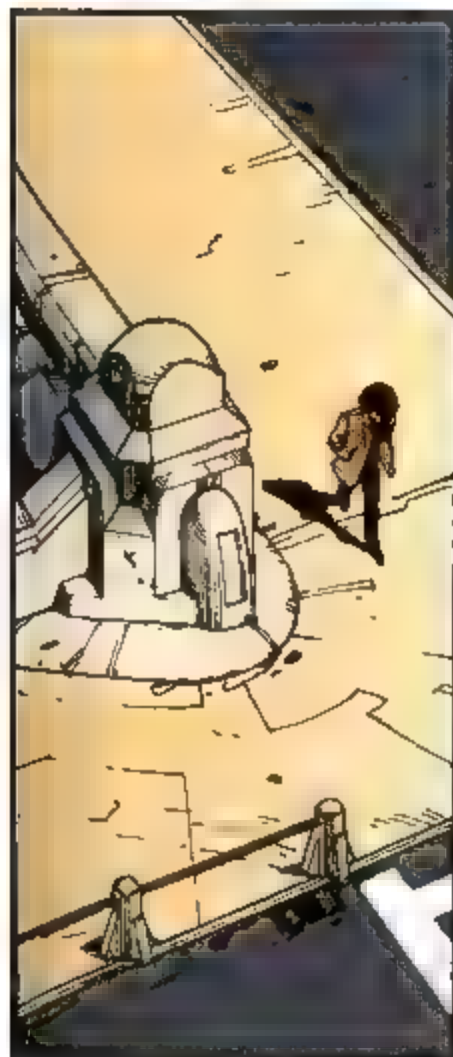
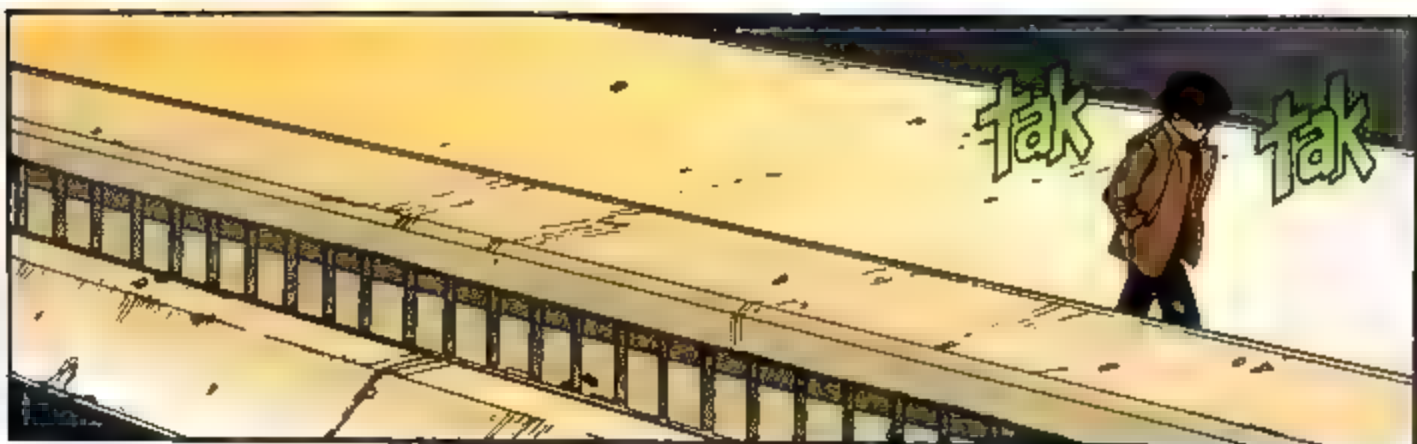
BUT, SIR, YOU
ALWAYS USE
THE ARMY.

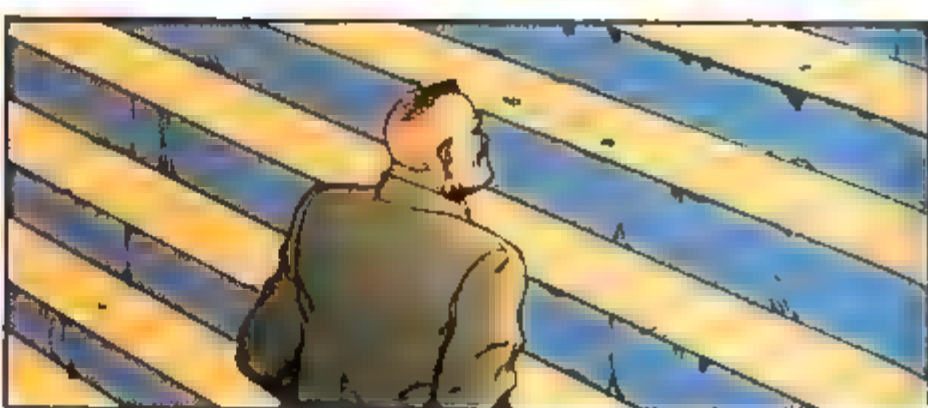
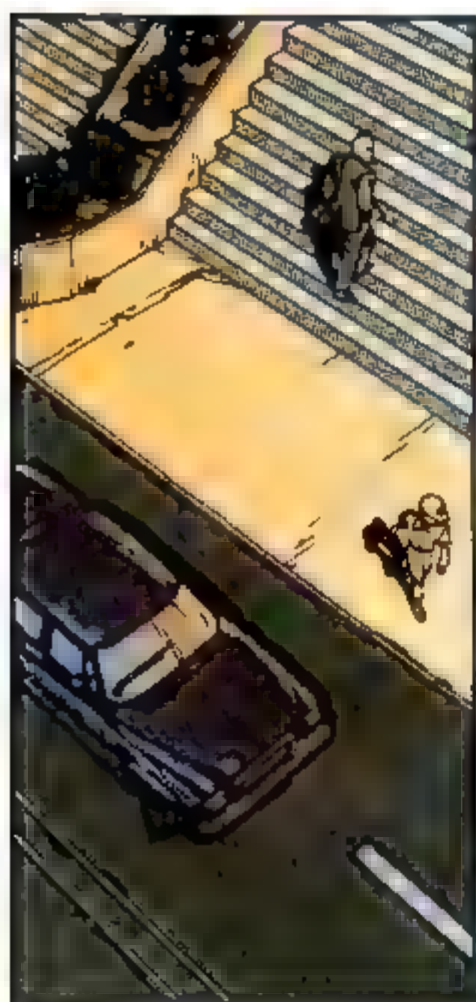
I'M GOING TO
OVERLOOK THAT
REMARK...

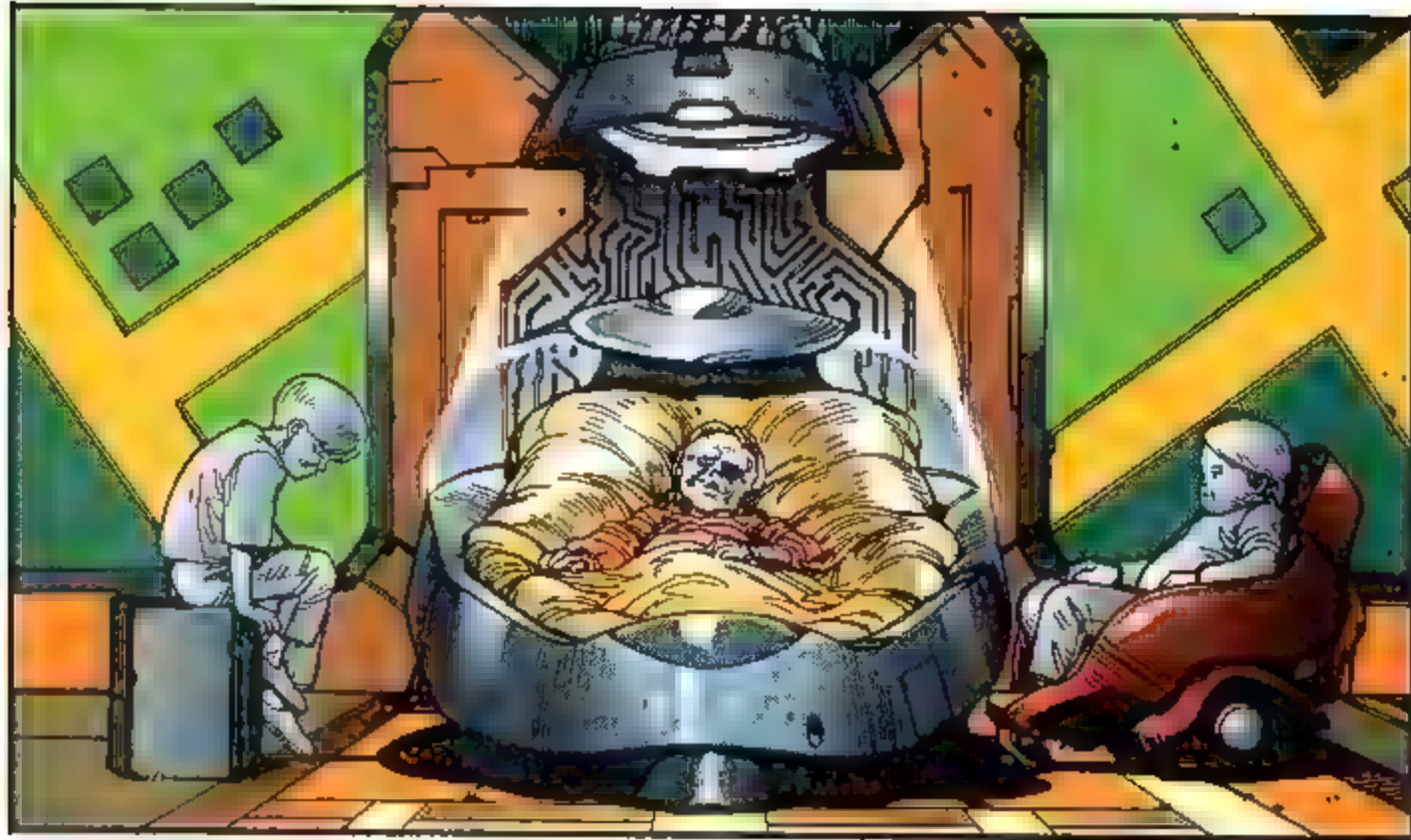








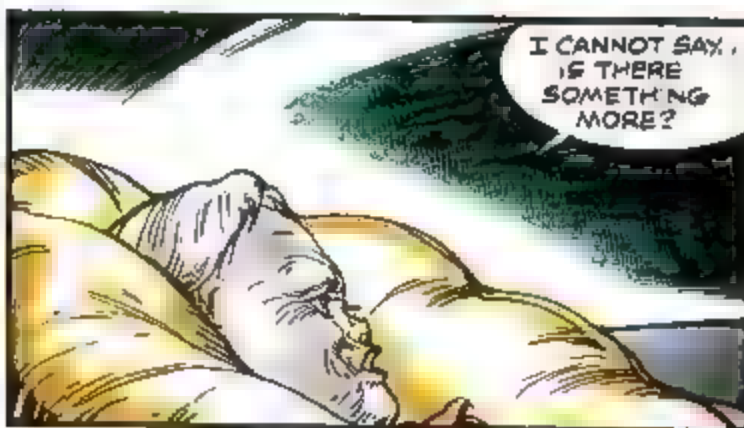




TELL ME, KIYOKO,
IS NUMBER #1
STILL ALIVE?



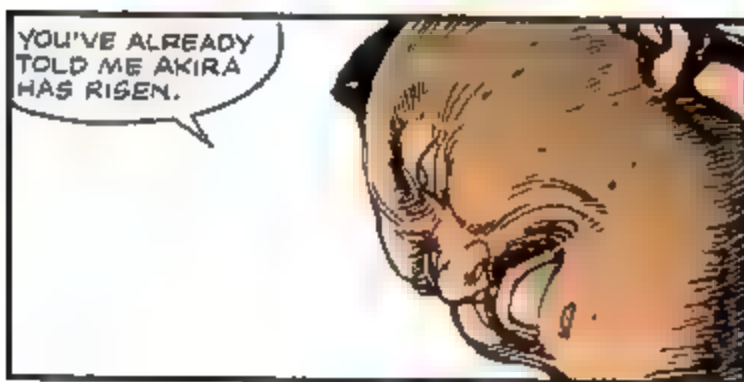
I CANNOT SAY,
IS THERE
SOMETHING
MORE?

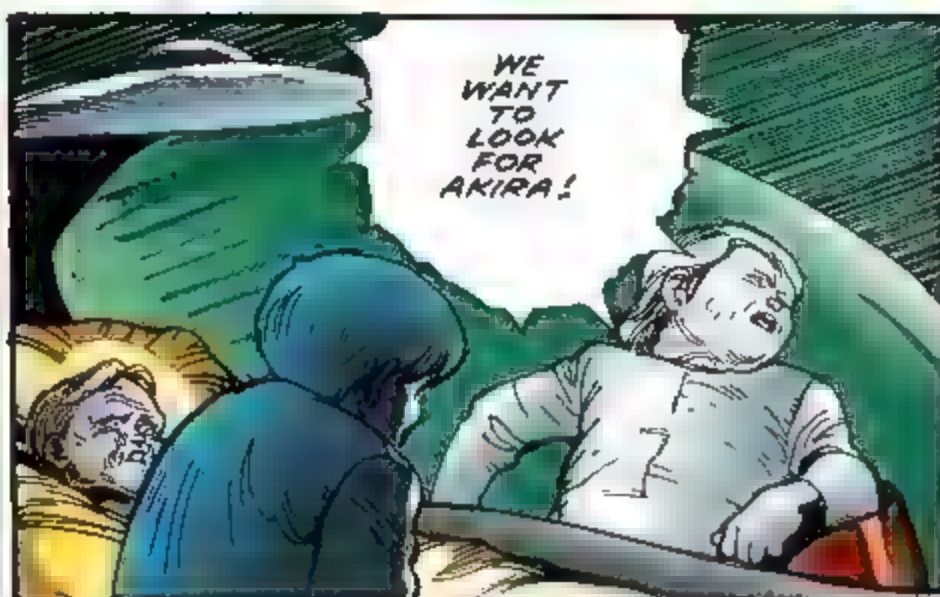
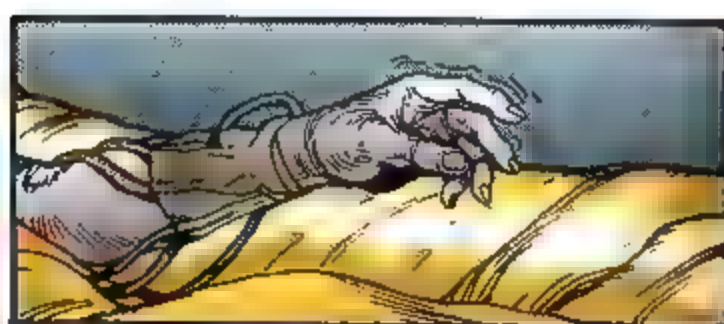
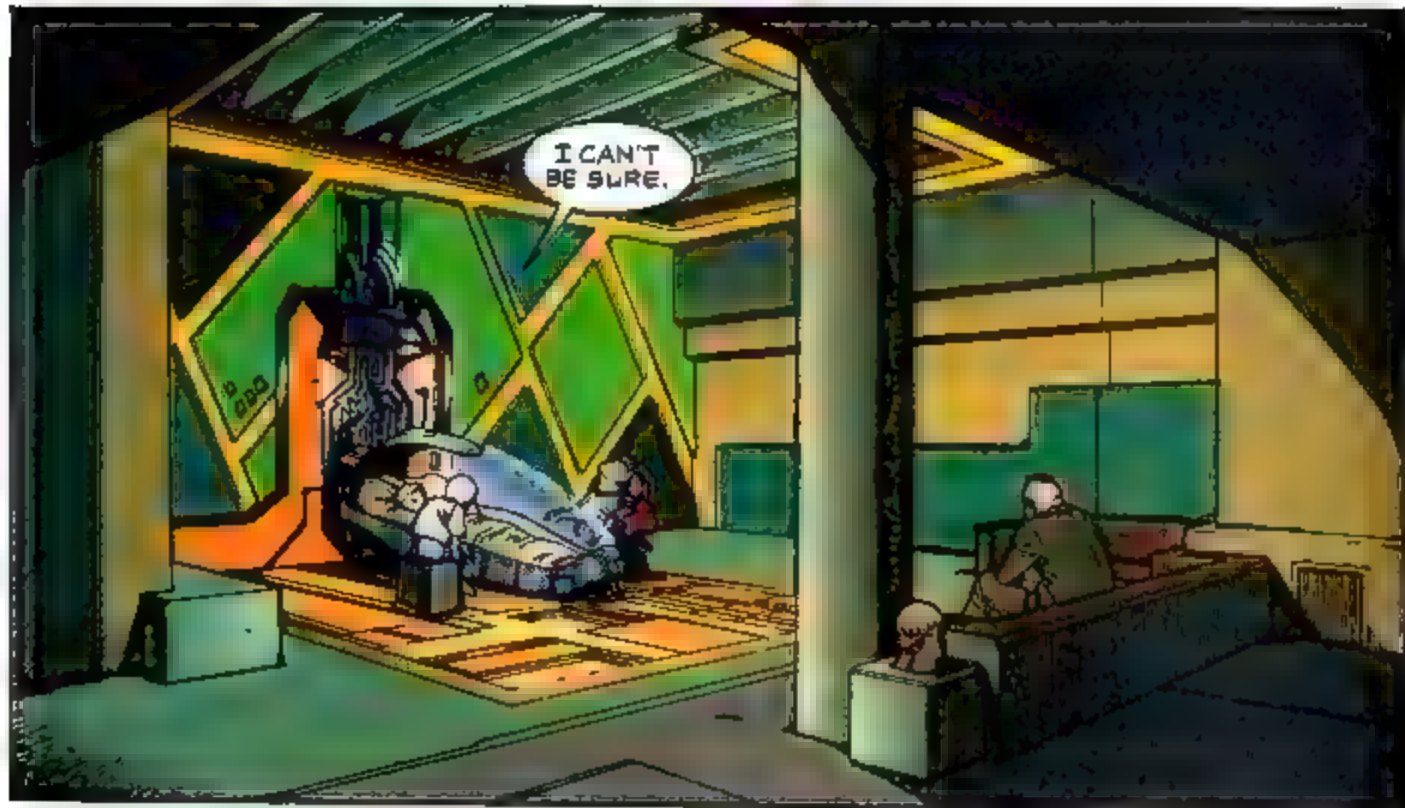


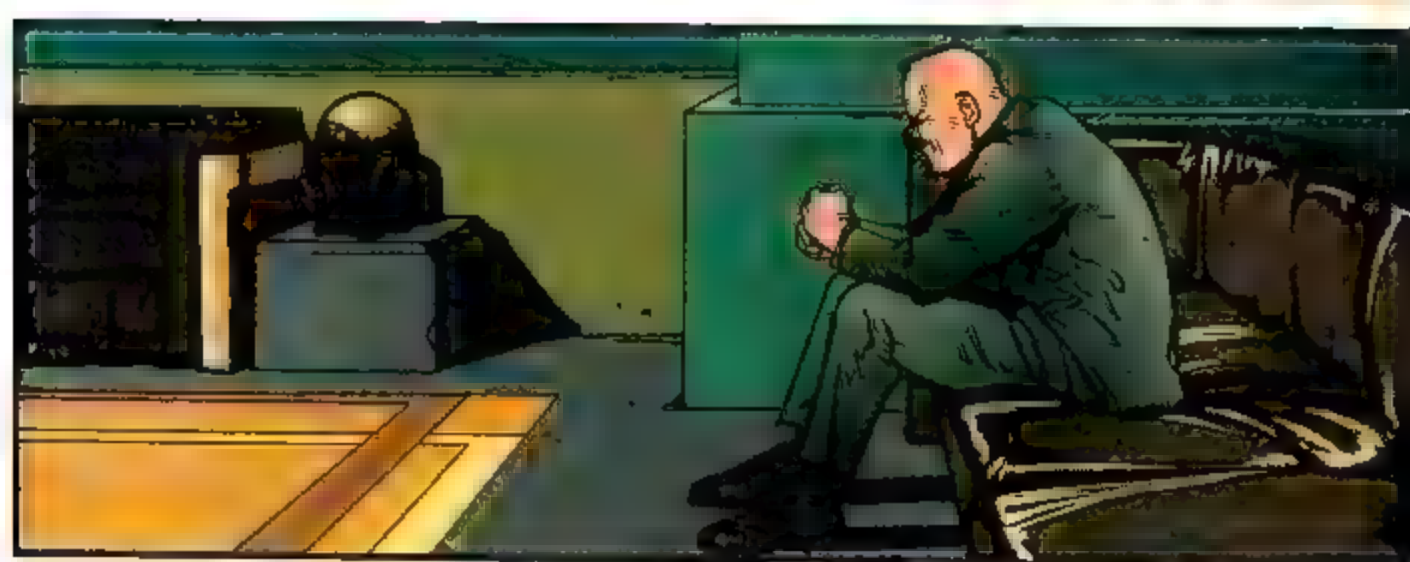
I MUST FIND
OUT WHERE HE
IS NOW.

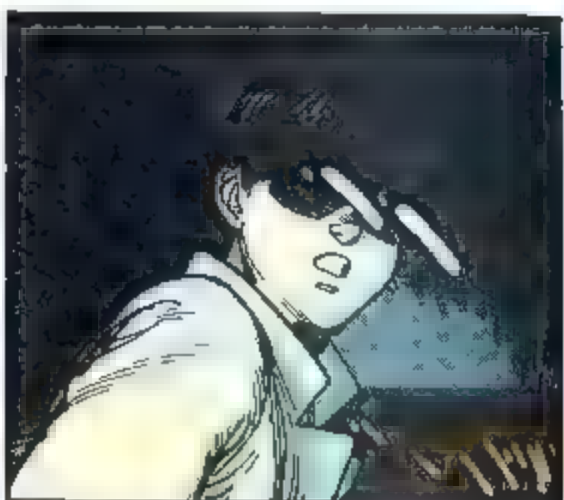
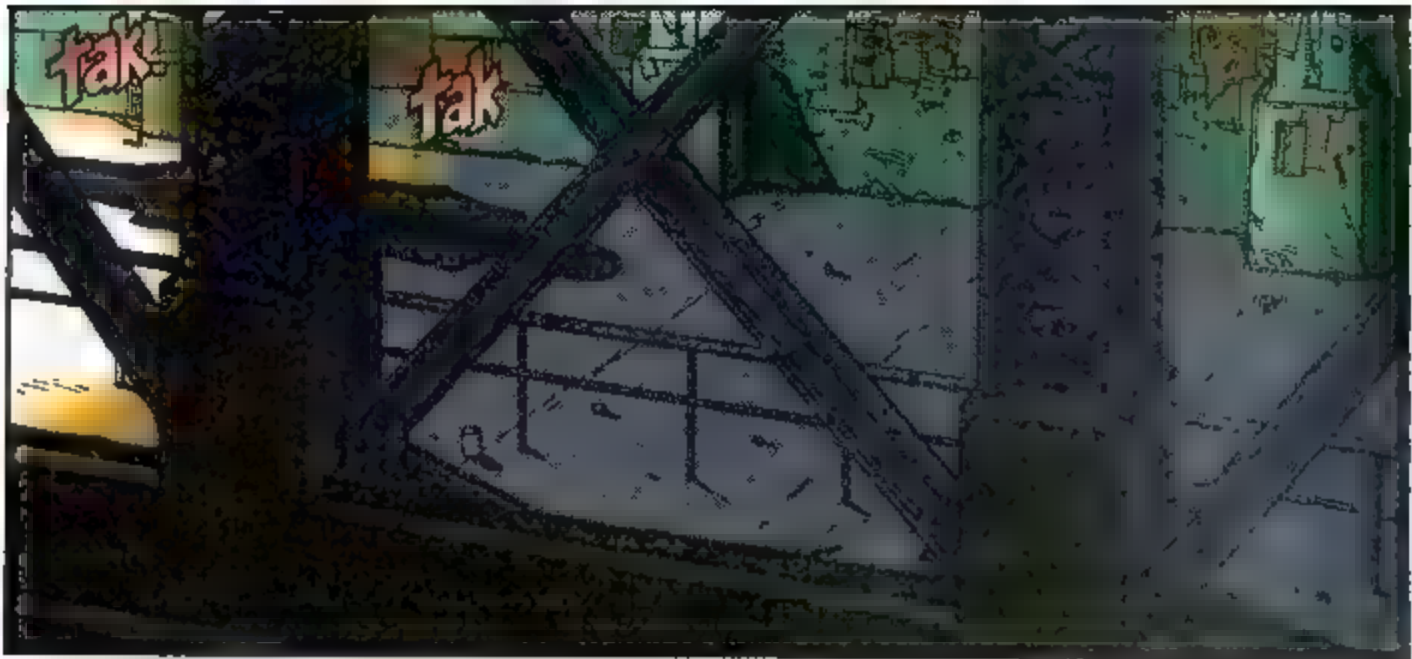


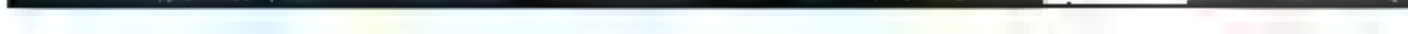
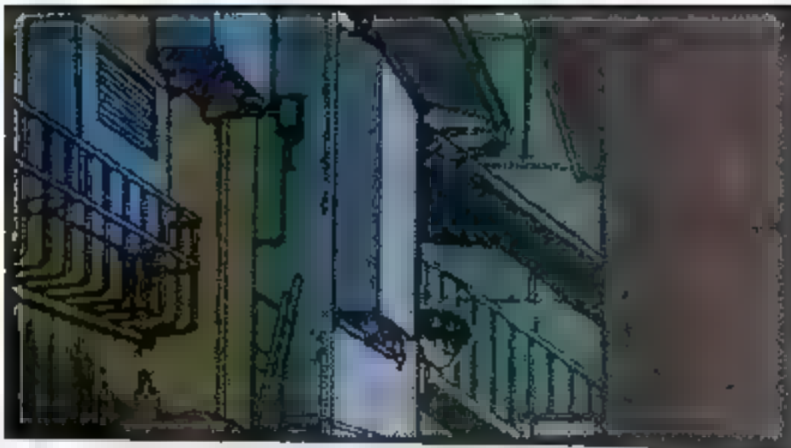
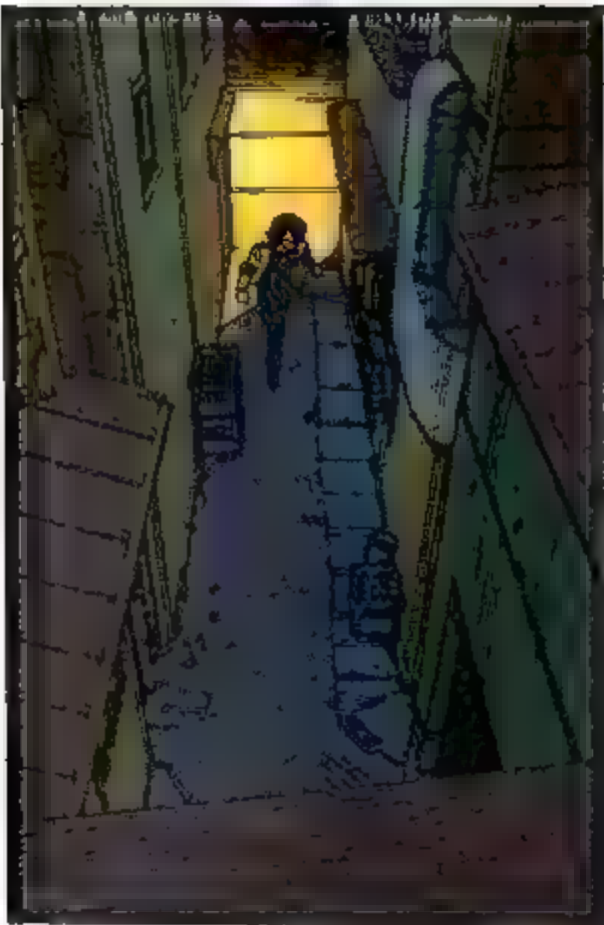
YOU'VE ALREADY
TOLD ME AKIRA
HAS RISEN.

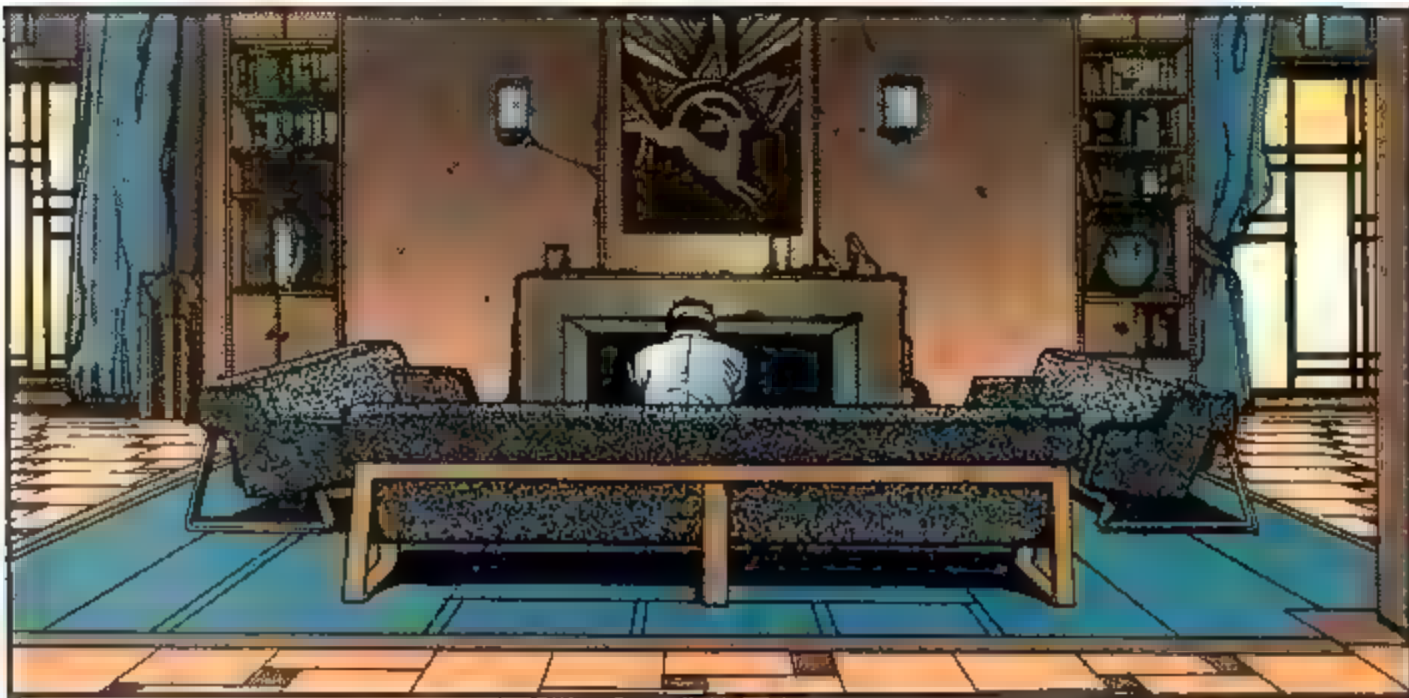
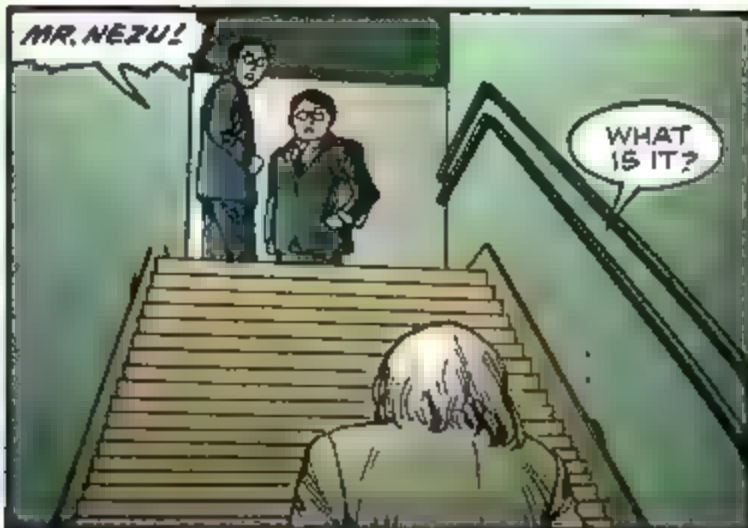


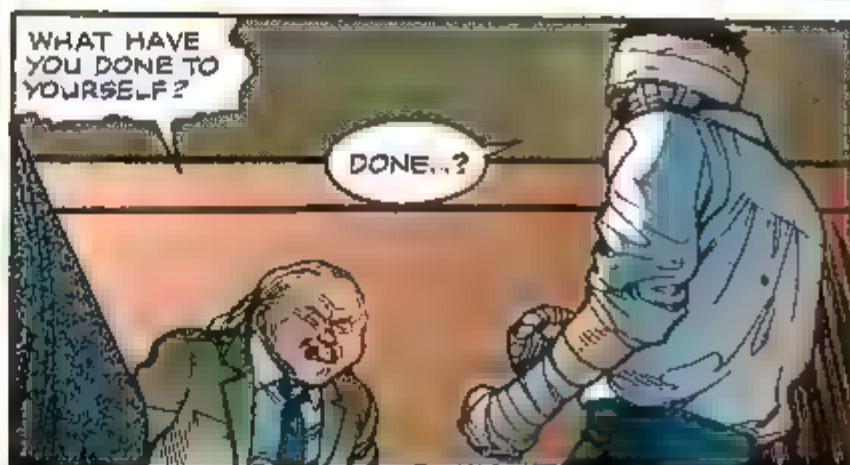


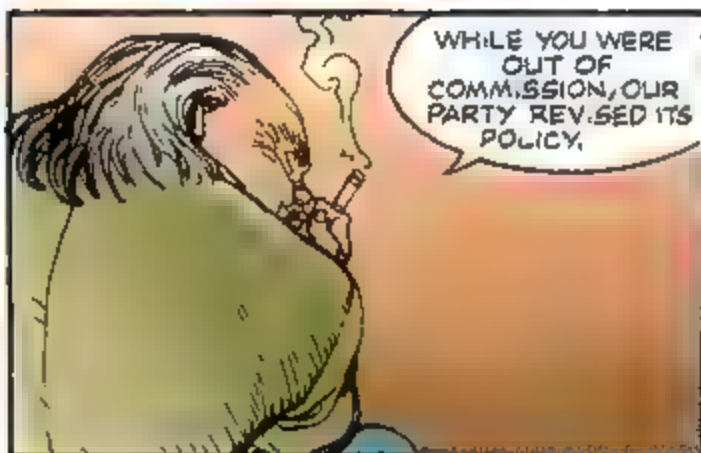
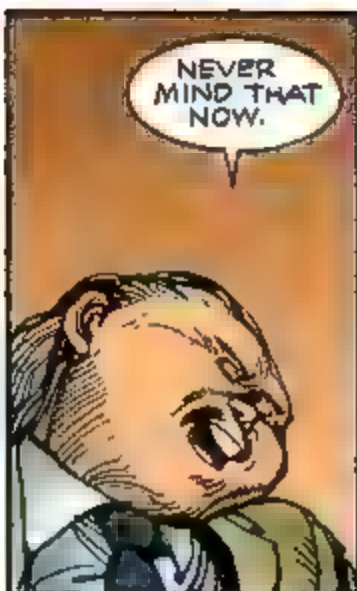
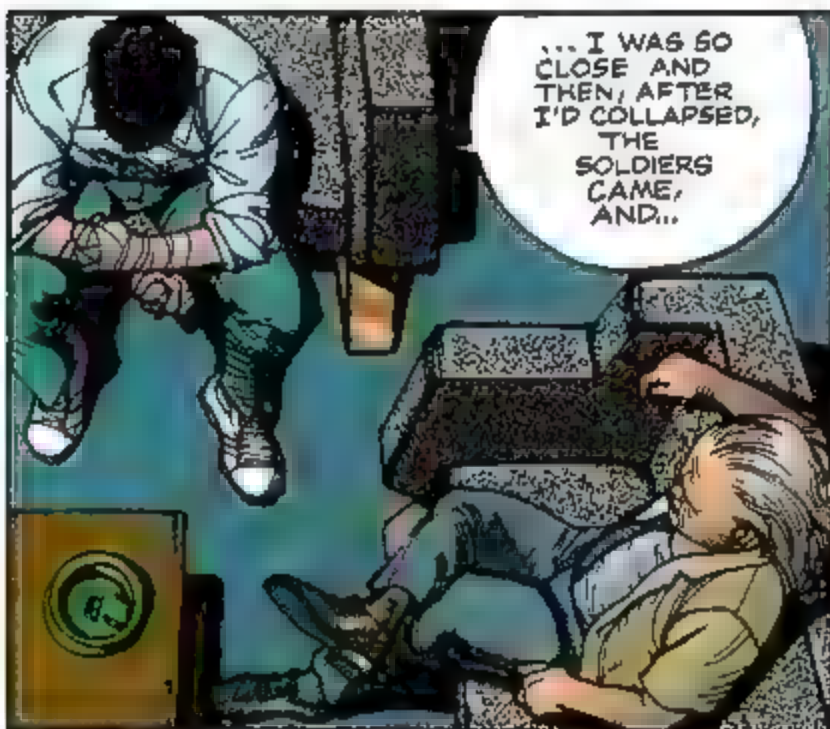


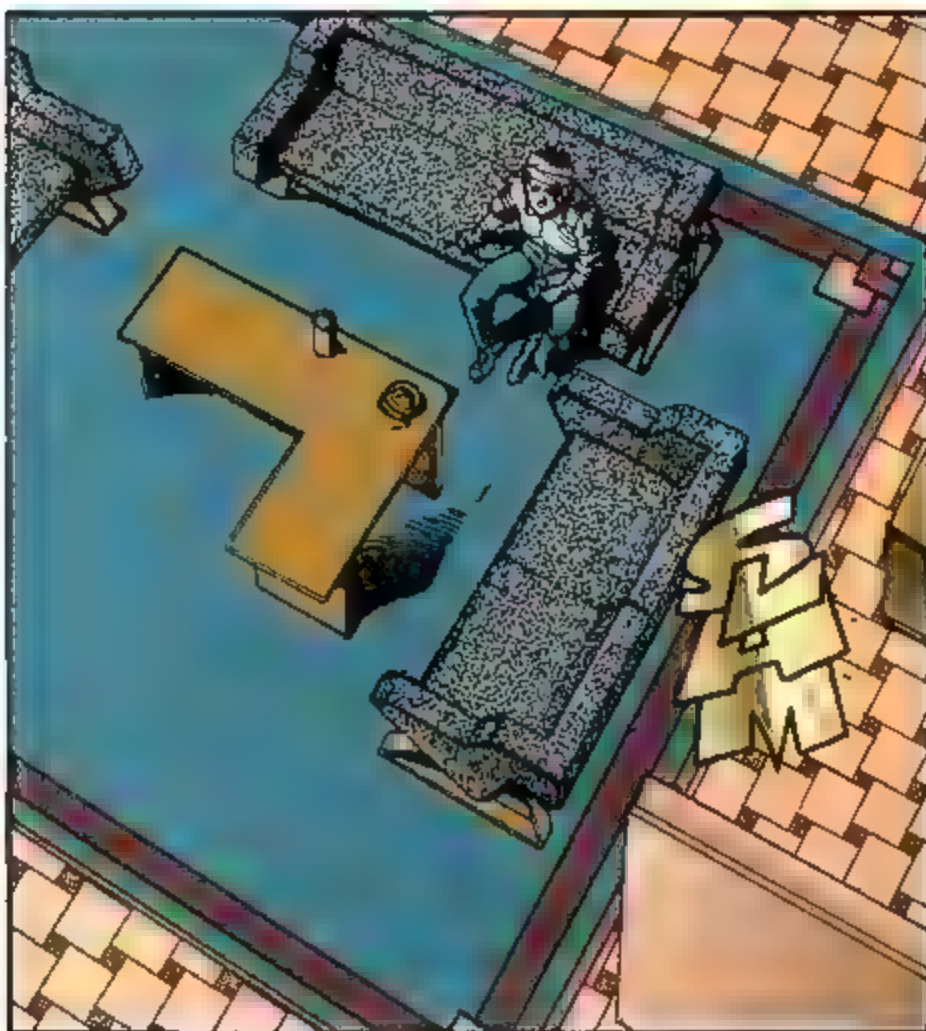
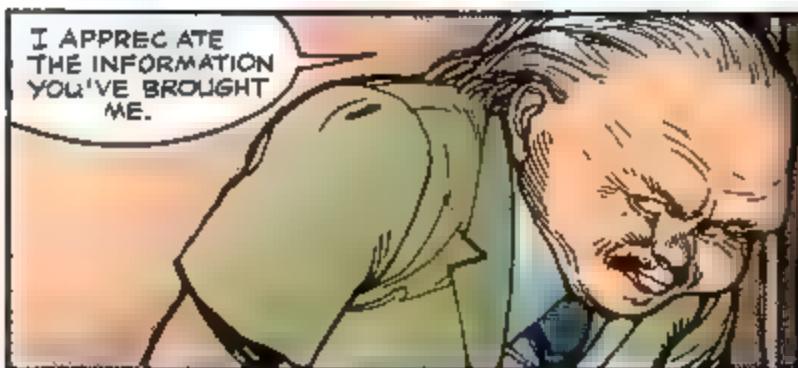


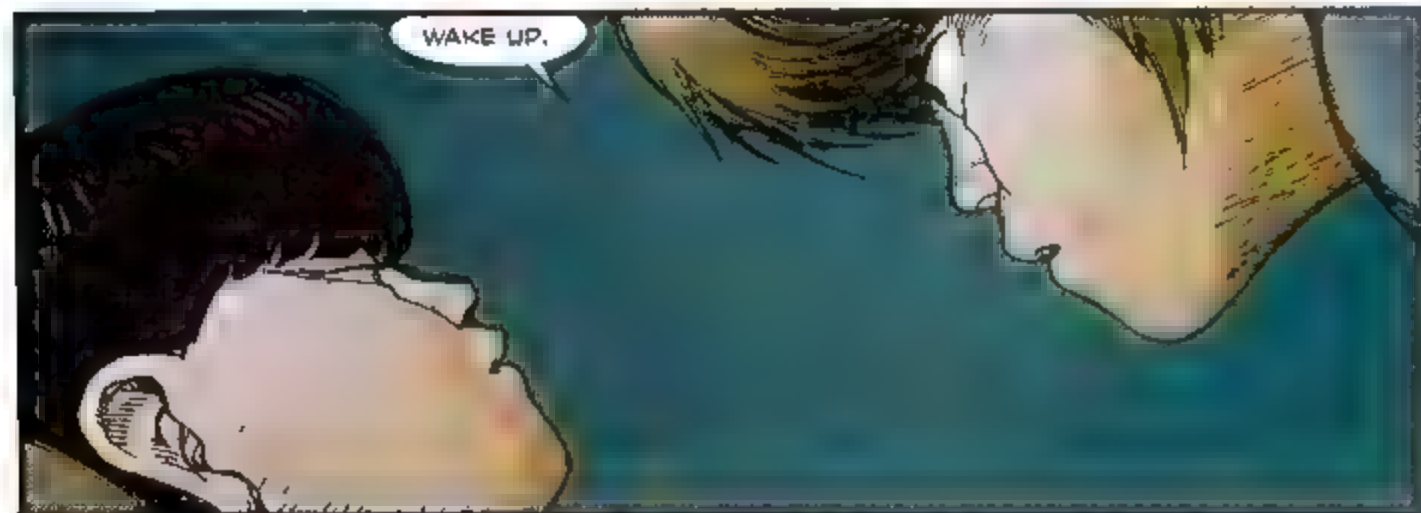
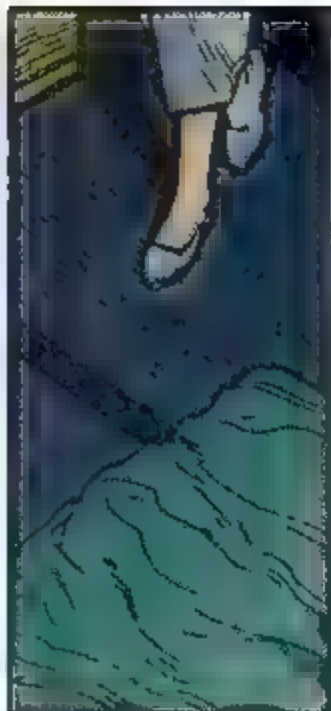
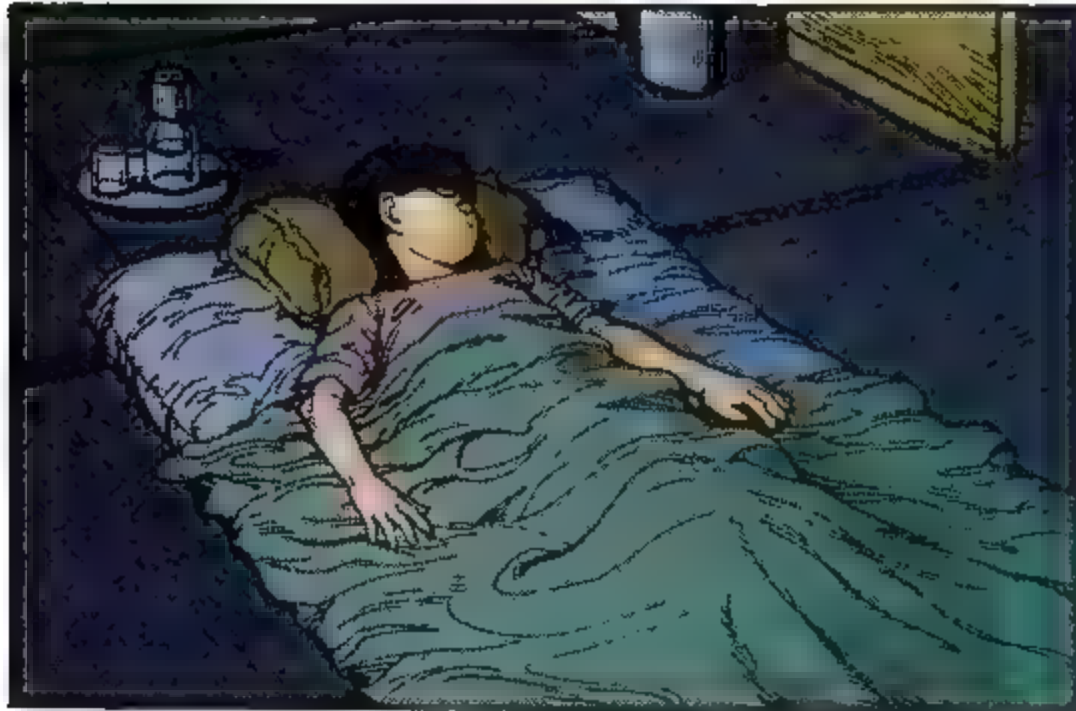


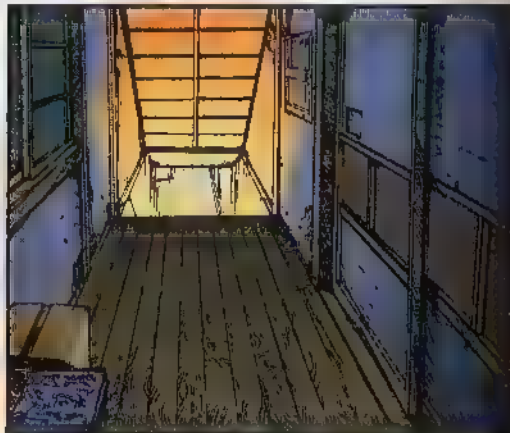
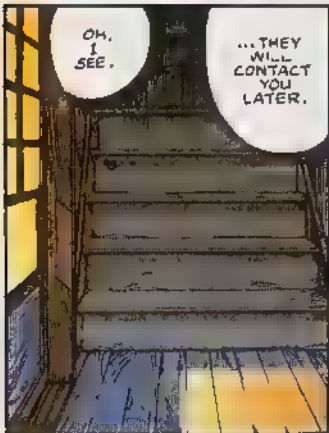
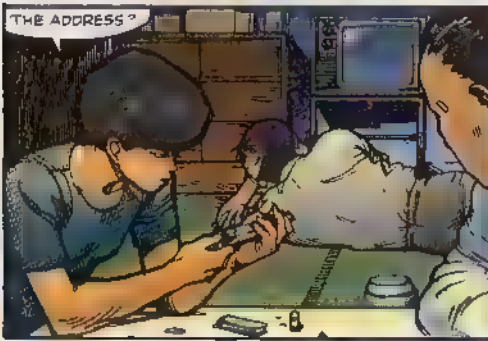
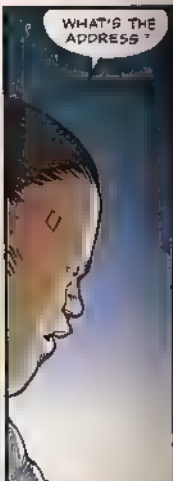
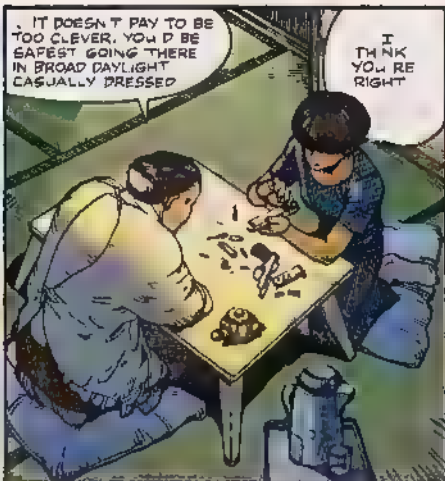


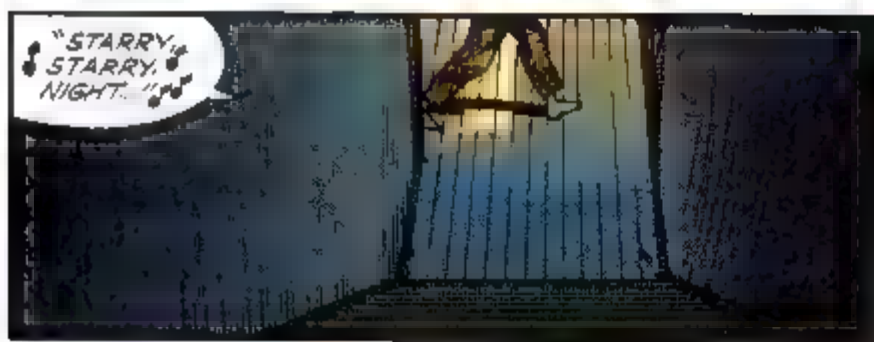
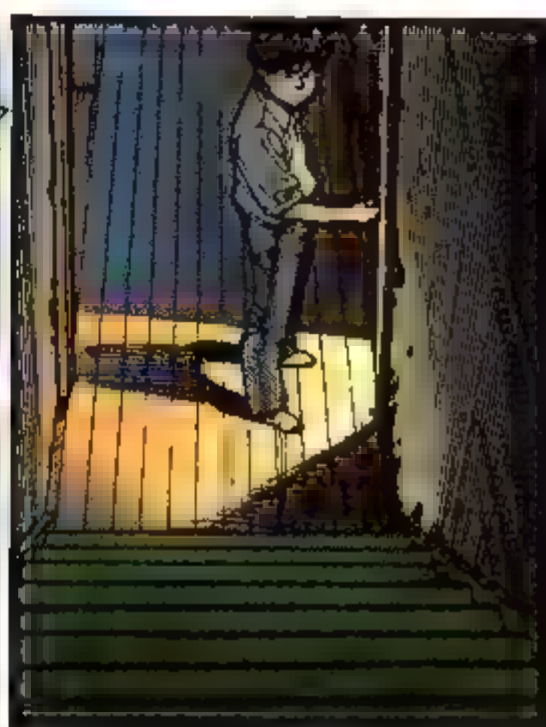
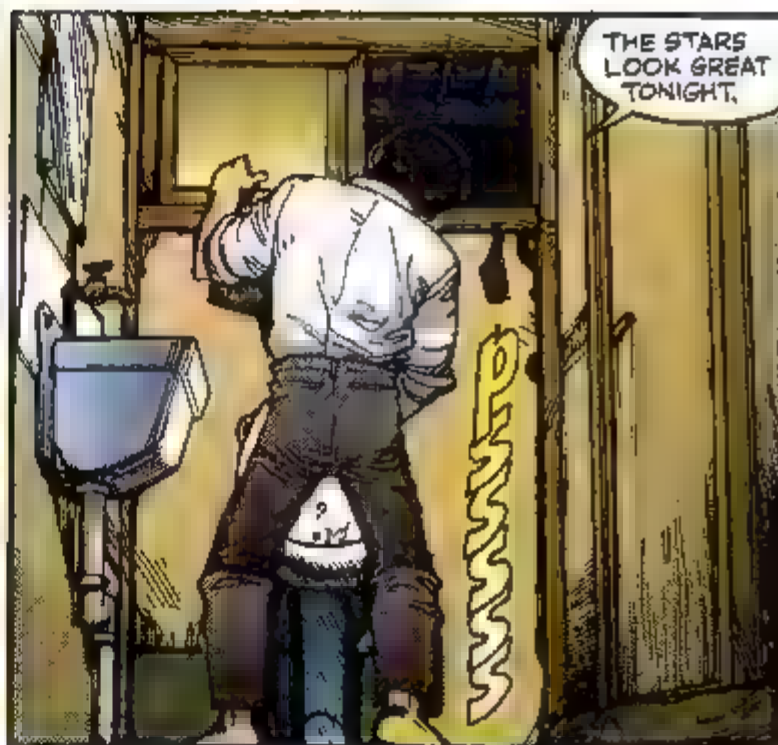
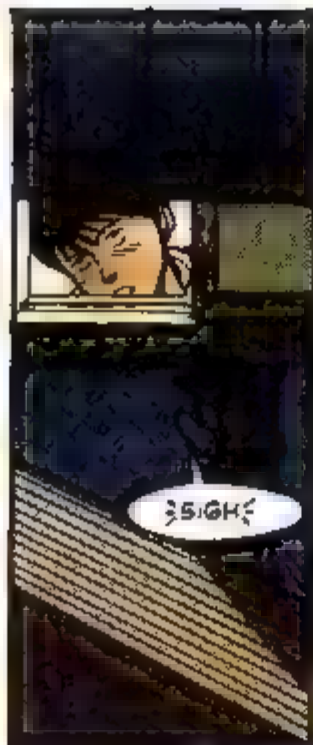


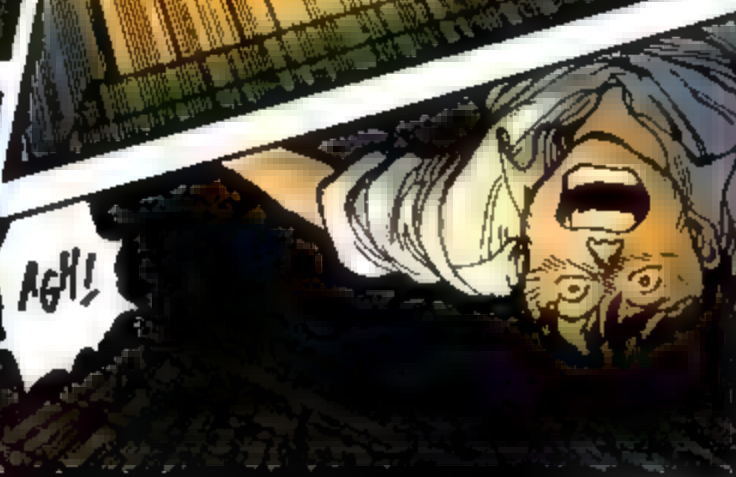
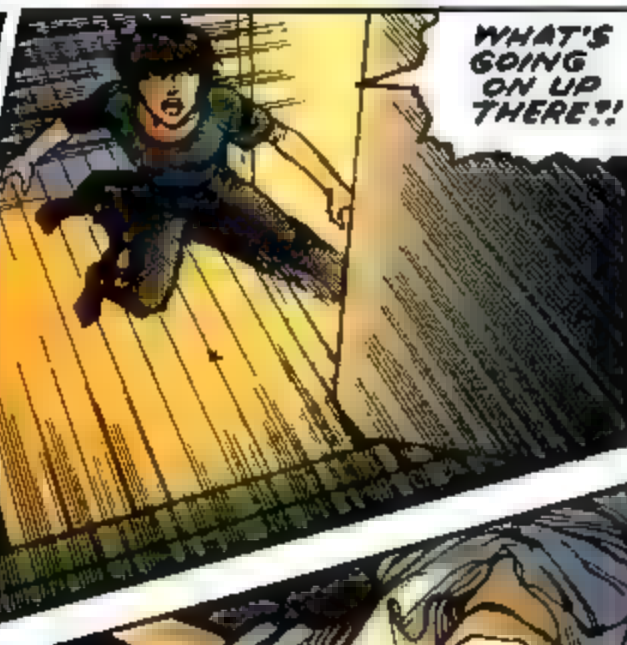


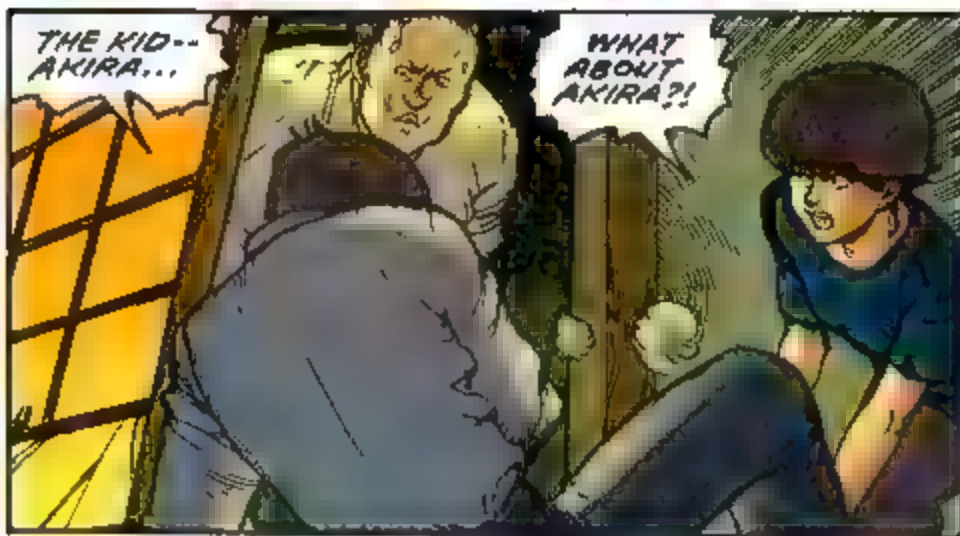


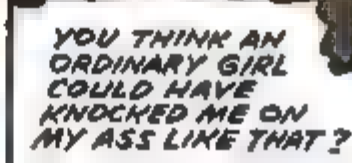
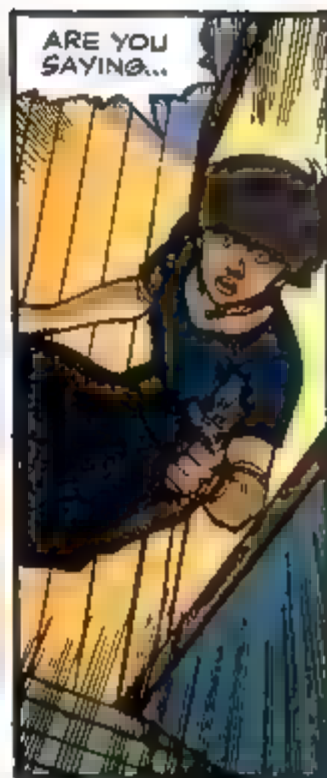


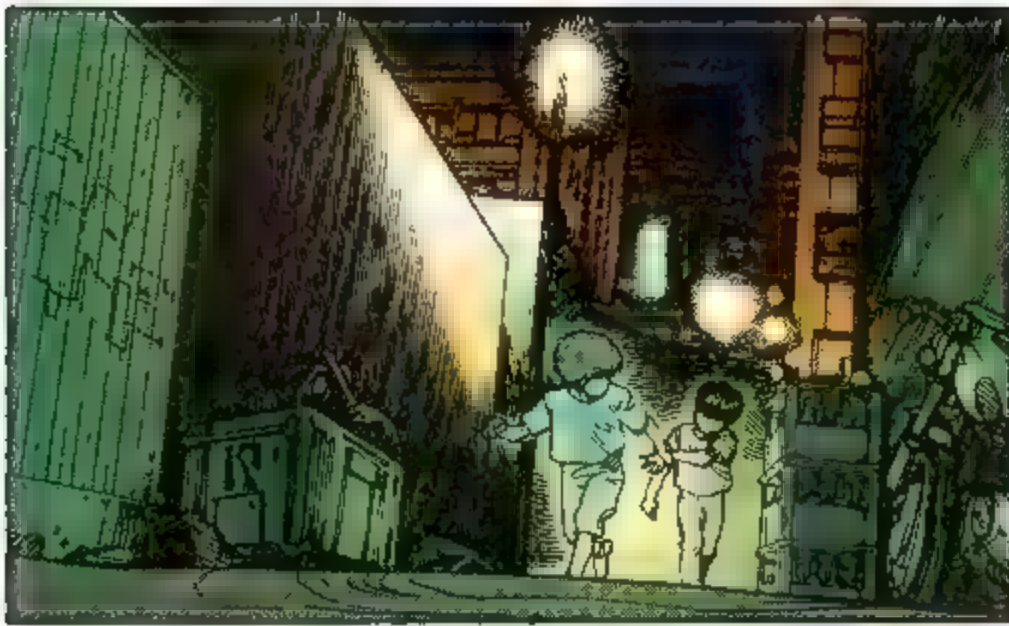


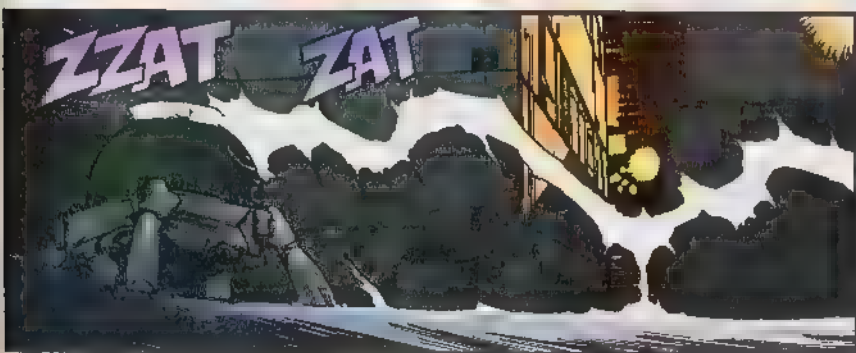
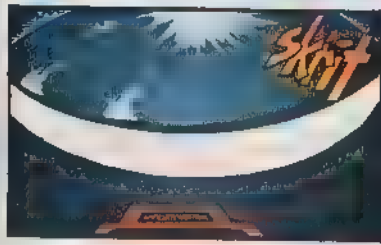








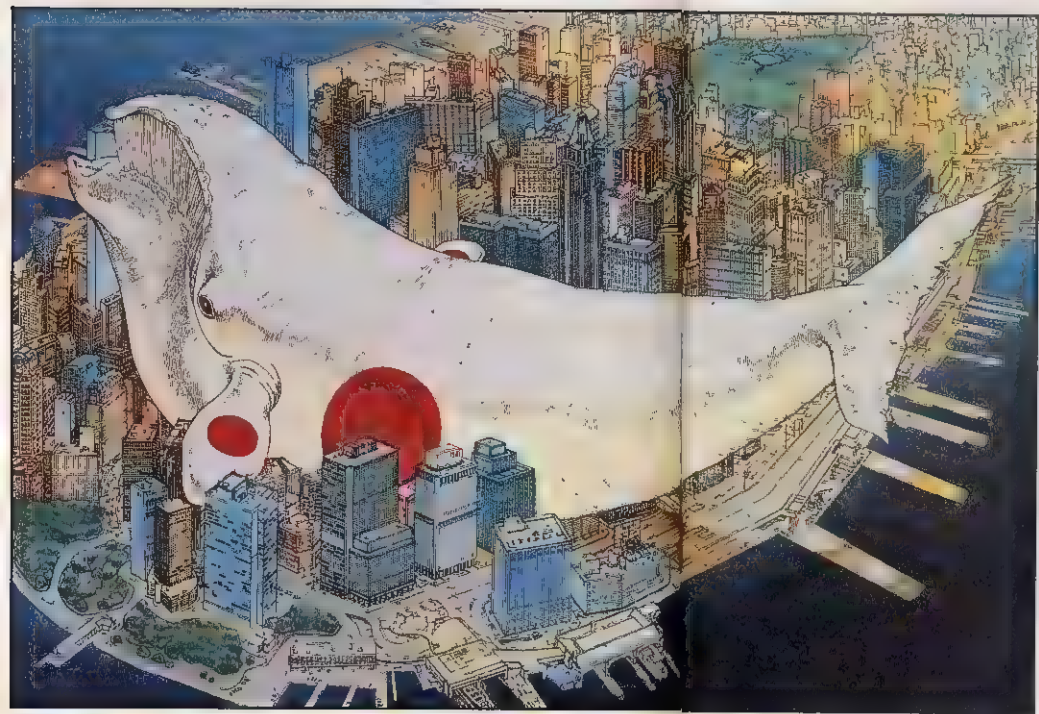




NEXT ISSUE: **DESPERATION**

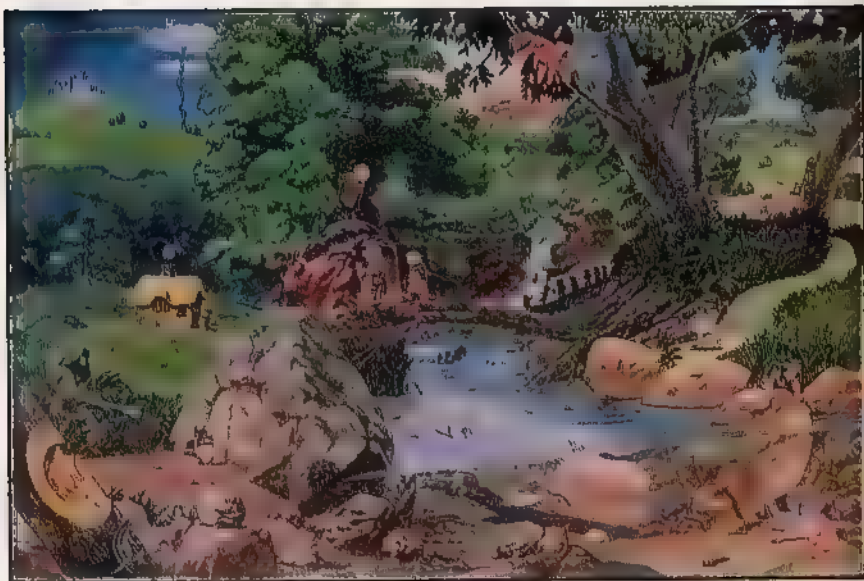
Those of us who have been exposed to Otomo's work marvel at the beautiful line work, the exciting attention to detail, the way a cityscape of the mind springs to life.

Unfortunately for us here in America, we have not had a chance to see any of Otomo's other published work, until now. Ask your favorite store owner, the one where you bought this book, if he has ordered **Otomo Katsuhiko Artwork—Kaba**. Enclosed within the covers of this book is a stunning array of Otomo's art that was created from 1971–1988. It ranges from comics to commercials, illustrations to television credit sequences.



This illustration is from the comic book *Sayonara Nippon* Futabasha Company Ltd 1982. The medium is rotring with acrylic colors and color tone

To me the hardest thing about the book was putting it down. Each time I found something new that I swore I had not seen before. It was a joy seeing an advance copy of the book that I hope you will soon have the experience of seeing for yourself



This is an end paper for the comic book *Hansel & Gretel*, CBS-SONY Publishing Inc , 1981. The medium is acrylic colors.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO

writer • Illustrator

YASUMITSU SUETAKE

chief assistant • Mr. Otomo

MAKOTO SHIOSAKI

SATOSHI TAKABATAKE

assists to Mr. Otomo

HIROSHI HIRATA

designer • All IFA photography

AKIRA SAITO

designer • Rudansky edited

Edo Gasha Ltd

YOKO UMEZAWA

with LINDA M. YORK

KOICHI YUJI

editor • Photo • Text • Art

YUKA ANDO

editor • Photo • Text • Art

NOBUYUKI OKAZAKI

managing editor • New York

The Comics

JO OUFFY

editor • Photo • Text • Art

STEVE OUFFY

writer • Art

OLYOPTICS COMPUTER CREW

MICHAEL HIGGINS

writer • Art

HARRY CANDELLARIO

writer • Art

MARIE JAVINS

writer • Photo • Text • Art

MARGARET CLARK

writer • Art

CARL POTTS

writer • Photo • Text • Art

Through Neo-Tokyo a web has been woven. The web is not so keen gossamer—it's hard and cold—forged with a hundred lies, hardened with a thousand treacheries. One man, the Colonel, may have started it, but countless more have helped him weave it until it now reaches everywhere. One single tug from a child called Akira has started unravelling the web. Frantically, the weavers try to remake the strands to perpetuate their treachery—but to no avail. The old web is being swept away, a new web has been started. Akira has risen.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA

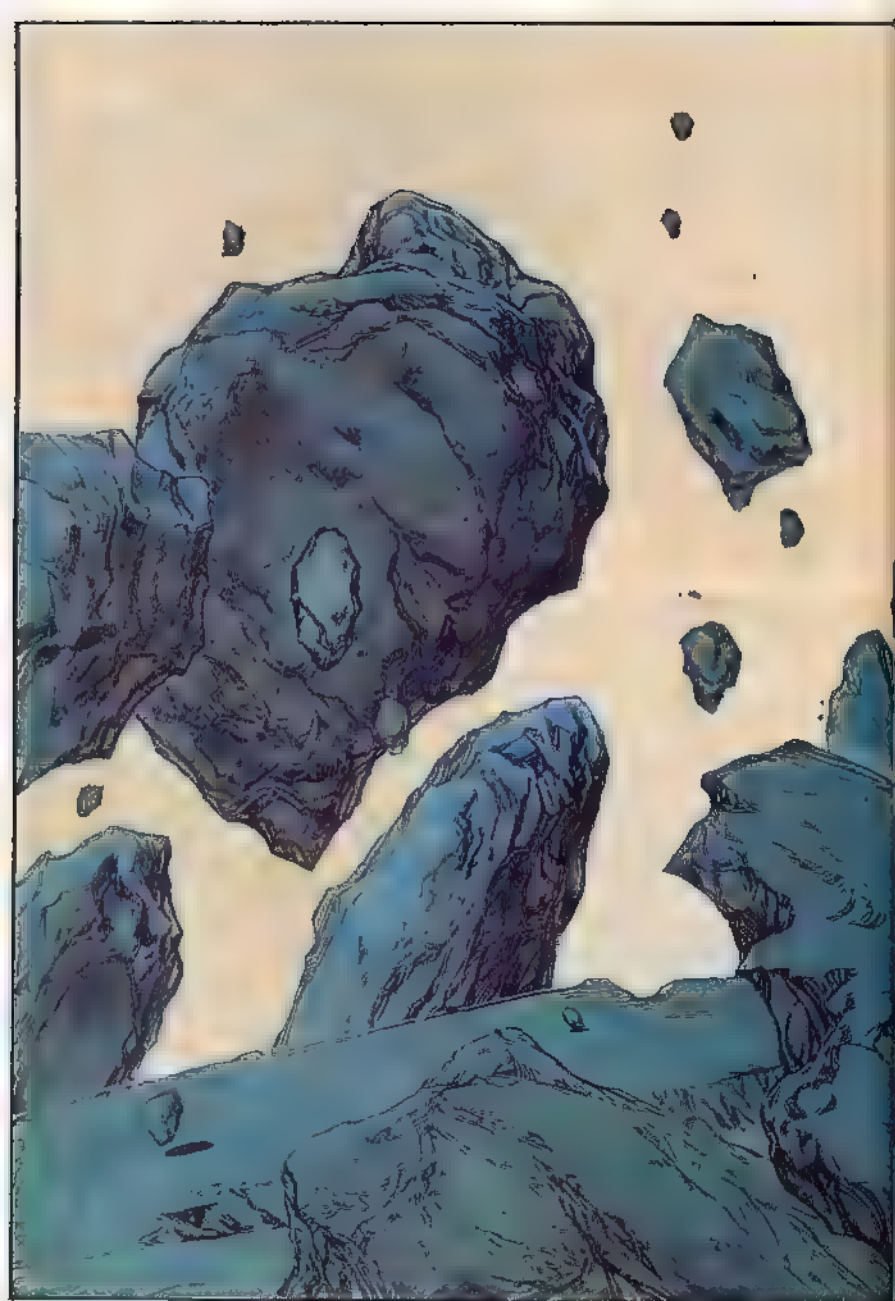


A full-body illustration of the character Akira Tetsu. He is standing with a serious expression, wearing a tan trench coat with a high collar and dark gloves. His right arm is crossed over his chest. Behind him is a large, stylized green Japanese character 'アキラ' (Akira).

AKIRA

BY

KATSUHIRO
OTOMO

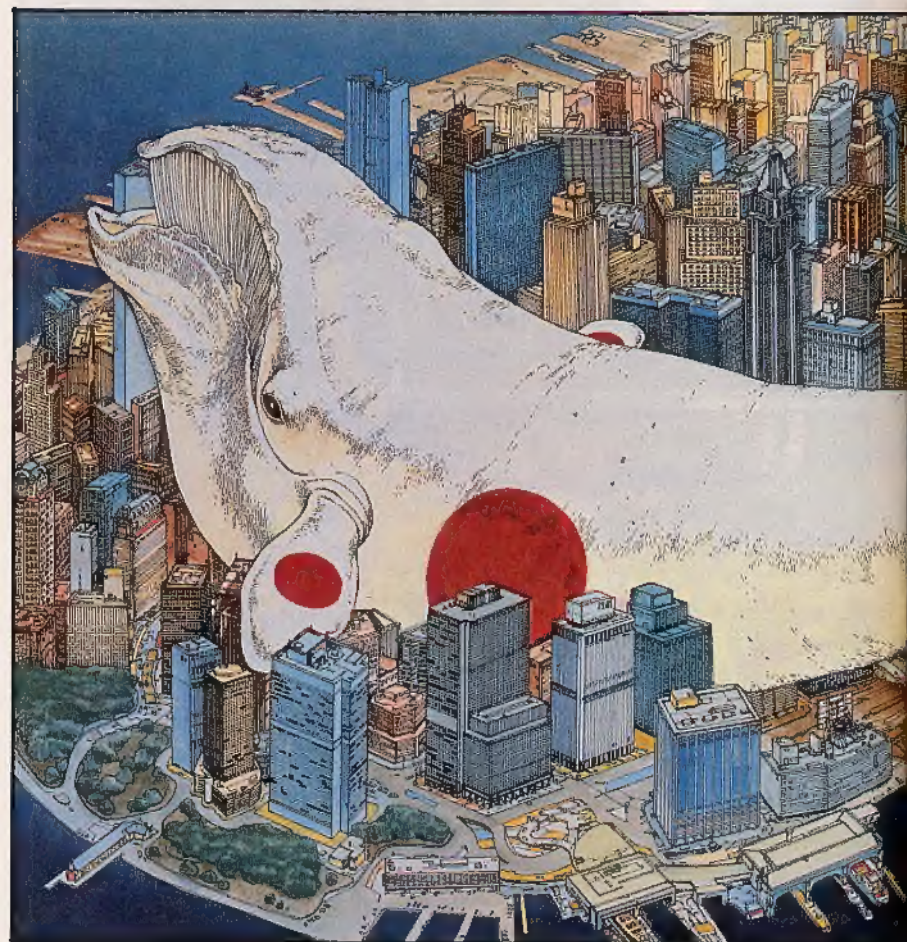






OTOOMO Katsuhiko

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This illustration is from the comic book *Sayonara Nippon* Futabasha Company Ltd 1982. The medium is rotoring with acrylic colors and color tone.

This scan produced by:

X-FUTURE

I love um

I buy um

I preserve um